

## City Council

Monday 25 January 2021

### PRESENT:

Councillor Mavin, in the Chair.

Councillor Winter, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler and Wiggins.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 9.07 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.*

#### 59. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to Councillor Singh's amendment of changing Sikhism to Anti - Sikhism.

#### 60. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting –

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Kelly	14a	Local Sea Angler	Private Interest
Councillor Kelly	14c	Son in final year at University	Private Interest
Councillor Buchan	14a	PCC representative for inshore fisheries authority	Private Interest
Councillor Buchan	11	PCC perspective on Plymouth Energy Community Trust	Private Interest
Councillor Bridgeman	14c	Board member at PCH	Private Interest
Councillor Carson	14c	Son is at	Private Interest

		University	
Councillor Goslin	14c	Employee at University of Plymouth	Disclosable Pecuniary
Councillor Jordan	14c	Daughter at University and lives at home in Plymouth	Private Interest
Councillor Wiggins	14c	Business at a property landlord to students	Disclosable Pecuniary
Councillor Mrs Johnson	14c	Landlord occasionally to students although not present. Daughter is currently applying for university	Private Interest
Councillor Beer	14c		Private Interest
Councillor Darcy	14c	Daughter is student	Private Interest
Councillor Penberthy	11	On several boards within the Plymouth Community Energy Trust cooperatives	Private Interest
Councillor Singh	14c	Son at university and currently living at home	Private Interest

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

Members were advised that there were no changes or new appointments to committees or outside bodies.

62. **Announcements**

The Director of Public Health provided an update on the current situation with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The country went into a national lockdown on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. At that time Plymouth's rates were 200 per 100,000 and rates across England were 560 per 1,000,000.
- Since then, as expected, the number of cases continued to rise but there have been signs in recent days that the number of cases are falling.
- Today's figures for Plymouth are 269 per 100,000, the South West is similar and the national rates are 400 per 100,000.
- These rates are extremely high for Plymouth and there are very few people in Plymouth who have not been touched by this. There are around 100 patients in

Derriford which is having a knock on effect for people in Plymouth and additional pressures on staff at hospital.

- Figures have not fallen as quickly as anyone would like but the new strain is more easily transmissible and the data suggests this new strain has come to Plymouth.
- Control measures are the same for the new strain: Hands, Face, Space. Follow guidance to stay at home, unless you HAVE to leave.
- CCG say the vaccine roll out is going well and the majority of Over 80s will be vaccinated by the end of the week.
- New vaccination centre opening this week at the Mayflower centre, Home Park. However, there are challenges in keeping people safe giving and receiving vaccines. People are not protected straight away when they get their first injection, they must continue to follow guidance.

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

- In the latest lockdown grants available for businesses teams have helped to get £10million out in 3 days, over half the full amount. Focus will now be on the discretionary pot now and targeting those falling through the cracks.
- The Council have written to the Chancellor of Exchequer supported by local businesses, asking for more 2021 and looking forward to 2022. The pandemic is hard to predict but this is why long term assurances are needed.
- Resurgam is making good progress, including the new Lighthouse Lab which has created 400 jobs.

Councillor Peter Smith, Deputy Leader:

- Estimated that Plymouth has lost 169.5m in visitor spend in 9 months interest in Mayflower 400.
- Mayflower 400 sports programme has engaged with residents throughout 2020, including primary schools.
- Parks, play parks and nature reserves still open. MUGAs and tennis courts as well as sports centres have had to close.
- Libraries are offering select and collect and essential PC use and printing and promote online and digital services.

Councillor Kate Taylor, Cabinet Member for Health made announcement regarding

- Another care hotel has opened in conjunction with Livewell Southwest with another opening later this week. Aiming to ease pressure on hospitals and helping residents who are not yet ready to go home still get care.
- More staff than residents are affected with COVID19 in care homes. 20 homes with an outbreak and 5 with a single case. 120 residents, 140 staff although this is changing daily. PCC teams are doing all they can to support them.
- Care workers and support staff have done a tremendous job in maintaining the health and wellbeing of residents.

Councillor Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development regarding

- Test and Trace changes to funding.

- Thanking four key people are about to move on from their current posts within the Armed Forces Covenant for their significant contribution to the city and the Armed Forces Covenant and wished them well in their futures.
- Praise from the undersecretary of state on how Plymouth looks after local children in the armed forces community, particularly in relation to SEN children.
- Holocaust Memorial Day will be acknowledged through a filmed event online due to current restrictions.

Councillor Mary Aspinall, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee –

- Agenda has changed as the committee need to look at the ongoing vaccine programme.
- Response back from NHS England regarding the 13 recommendations made by the Dental Health select committee in December, was disappointed as recommendations appear not to have been taken on board.
- Homelessness Dental health service has been nationally awarded.
- Oral Health needs assessment is due, has to cover the whole of Devon, and has been experiencing delays.

Councillor Darren Winter, Chair of the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee -

- Fishing industries suffering from Brexit related issues. There is a meeting next month to identify what the short term and long term issues are.

## 63. Questions by the Public

There was one question from members of the public:

The following question was submitted by Greg Roger Black and answered by Councillor Mark Coker:

<p><b>Question:</b> Parking on the pavement is an issue all over the city, some streets being too narrow and some households having more than one car. This blocks wheelchairs from using the pavement and residents with prams have to walk in the road. How does the Leader intend to tackle this issue?</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b> Plymouth City Council acknowledges that pavement parking can be inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous for pedestrians, especially persons with wheel chairs, mobility impairments, prams and push chairs. We have actively supported calls to review this area, supporting the work from the national Living Streets and Guide Dogs Association seeking change. Additionally, vehicles damage pavements with many simply not designed to accommodate vehicles. This places greater maintenance demands upon Councils in already financially challenging times. Pavement parking, outside of London (where London are afforded greater powers to manage this issue), has previously been discussed at Parliament, with Councils seeking changes to legislation, changes to provide more effective powers to tackle this issue and be more consistent with the legislation that applies in London.</p>
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	<p>Most recently the Department for Transport held a nationwide consultation on proposals to change such legislation; the consultation closed in November 2020. Plymouth City Council expressed our support for proposals for change and for Councils to be granted more effective powers to tackle this issue.</p> <p>The Department for Transport are currently progressing the Pavement Parking Bill 2020, through the House of Lords, which proposes that the act of parking on a pavement be an offense under The Road Traffic Act 1988. Like many other Authorities, and those people impacted by inconsiderate and dangerous pavement parking, we await with eagerness of any positive developments from the Department for Transport. In the meantime, whilst legislative changes are debated, Plymouth City Council remains committed to supporting where the law permits us to do so. This includes liaising with our police colleagues, where obstruction remains a criminal offence, required to be enforced by the Police.</p> <p>We recognise that our ability to tackle this behaviour, to drive behaviour change, is very much linked to a positive outcome of this review, with Councils provided more effective powers to take this national issue.</p>
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64. **Council Tax Base Setting and Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22**

Councillor Mark Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced Council Tax Base Setting and Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Penberthy.

Following a discussion the Council agreed:

1. the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 of 73,115 equivalent Band D dwellings as set out in the report;
2. the continuation of the current Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 with the following updates:

- To allow the Council to increase the levels of incomes within each Band to allow for any changes made by Government to other benefits;
- To allow the Council to suspend the use of the Minimum Income Floor for the Self Employed in exceptional circumstances;
- To align the current non-dependant deductions with the lowest non-dependant deductions in the pension age scheme;
- To amend the scheme to allow for Shared Parental Leave, Parental Bereavement Leave and the Grenfell Tower Residents' Discretionary Fund.

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil,

Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)  
Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin.

65. **Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2021/22 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme**

Councillor Mark Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure introduced the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2021/22 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme report. This was seconded by Councillor Pam Buchan.

Following a discussion the Council agreed to:

1. Approve the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2021/22 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme
2. Request that the Joint Chairs of TBTFJC continue to press the Government to deliver on its offer for Highways England to maintain the road on the Tamar Bridge.

For (55)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)  
Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin  
Councillor Nicholson (unable to vote due to IT issues)

66. **Pay Policy Statement 2021/22**

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) provided introduced the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 report. Councillor Parker-Delaz-Ajete seconded this.

Following a discussion the Council agreed the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 in line with statutory requirements.

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

67. **Plymouth Plan Climate Change Review**

Councillor Mark Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure introduced the Plymouth Plan Climate Change Review. This was seconded by Councillor Stevens.

Following a discussion the Council agreed:

- I. the changes to the Plymouth Plan as identified in the report be and the updated Plymouth Plan was formally adopted as part of the City Council's Policy Framework

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

68. **Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021**

Councillor Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene introduced the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021. This was seconded by Councillor Buchan.

Following a discussion the Council agreed to support and endorse the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

69. **Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021**

Councillor Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene introduced the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2021. Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) seconded this.

Following a discussion the Council agreed to support and endorse the Corporate Carbon Reduction Action Plan 2021.

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

70. **Calendar of Meeting 2021/22 (To Follow)**

Councillor Peter Smith, Deputy Leader, introduced the item. Councillor Mary Aspinall seconded this report.

Following a discussion the Council agreed:

- I. the following dates for meetings to be held in 2021 and 2022;



2. to authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to publish a revised calendar of meetings in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition should the date of the local election in 2021 be changed.

For (56)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, 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, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

71. **Motions on notice**

72. **Marine Environment & Fishing**

Councillor Glenn Jordan introduced the Motion on Marine Environment & Fishing. This was seconded by Councillor Nick Kelly.

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

The amendment proposed was follows:

Fishing and the Marine Environment are vitally important to the City of Plymouth and its economy.

To specifically support our local fishing community and to protect our internationally important marine environment we call on the Leader of Plymouth City Council:

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:

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

i) Quota allocations and management in 2021 and beyond: England and the Crown dependencies

ii) Fisheries: strengthening the economic link licence condition in England

lii) Fisheries: apportioning additional quota between the UK administrations: UK and the Crown dependencies.

~~On banning Electric Pulse Fishing and to support the Banning of Super Trawlers from UK waters.~~

After a debate the amendment was approved:

For (30)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Coker, Corvid, Dann, Davey, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, , Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, P Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, and Winter (DLM).

Against (19)

Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drean, James, Jordan, Kelly, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, R Smith and Wiggins

Abstain (7)

Councillors Ball, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Cook, Mrs Johnson and Ms Watkin,

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Chris Mavin

Following a debate the substantive motion was carried.

For (34)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Corvid, Dann, Davey, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, P Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, and Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (22)

Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Cook, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drean, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, R Smith, Mrs Watkin and Wiggins

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

### 73. **Tampon Tax**

Councillor Terri Beer introduced the Motion on Tampon Tax. This was seconded by Councillor Dave Downie.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Penberthy and this was seconded by Councillor Laing.

The amendment proposed was follows:

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.

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.

Council recognises that there is more to do to tackle period poverty and therefore instructs ~~we call upon~~ the Leader and Deputy Leader of Plymouth City Council to write to the Chancellor Rishi Sunak to congratulate him on ~~delivering an election promise~~ backing Paula Sherriff's calls by ~~to~~ abolishing VAT on ~~Woman's~~ women's sanitary products from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and to ask the Chancellor to:

- make it clear that ~~that it is the government's intention~~ manufacturers and retailers should ~~honour~~ match this commitment ~~to~~ 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.

~~This will now mean that young girls and woman facing period poverty will no longer have to pay extra tax on these products that will go some way to end period poverty in the UK.~~

After a debate the amendment was approved:

For (38)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Dann, Derrick, Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, P Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Winter (DLM).

Against (17)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drean, James, Jordan, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh and R Smith.

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Lord Mayor- Councillor Mavin and Wiggins

Following a debate the motion was carried.

For (38)

Councillor Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Dann, Derrick, Davey, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Parker Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, P Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Winter (DLM).

Against (0)

Abstain (17)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drean, James, Jordan, Kelly, Mike Leaves, Sam Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh and R Smith.

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Lord Mayor- Councillor Mavin and Wigans

#### 74. **Supporting Student Renters and Student Landlords**

Councillor Margaret Corvid proposed the Motion on Supporting Student Renters and Student Landlords as amended. This was seconded by Councillor Sarah Allen.

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 switched to online learning and due to travel restrictions barring travel to Plymouth.

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.

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:

- 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 occupation,
- 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

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 hopes that the University of Plymouth in addressing the same issue through its enhanced student hardship fund follows suit.

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.

Following a debate the motion was agreed.

For (45)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Corvid, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Dann, Darcy, Davey, Deacon, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Haydon, Goslin, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Mike Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Riley, Singh, P Smith, R Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler and Winter.

Against (1)

Councillor Ball

Abstain (4)

Councillor Bowyer, Carson, Mrs Johnson and Ms Wakin

Absent/ Did Not Vote (7)

Councillors Mrs Bowyer, Cook, Churchill, Goslin, Tuffin, Wogens and Lord Mayor – Councillor Mavin

75.

### Questions by Councillors

	From	To	Subject
I	Councillor Patrick Nicholson	Councillor Sally Haydon	With regard to the email sent out last week to all members relating to the vaccinations and the concerns regarding the use of facilities across Plymouth, could an indication be given regarding what City Council facilities had been offered and whether health and wellbeing centres were amongst these, in order to assist the NHS in its vital work in carrying out vaccinations in Plymouth.
	Response: The vaccination programme was being administered by the NHS and not Plymouth City Council, so no details were available. With regard to the location of the vaccination sites this question was better directed at Councillor Kate Taylor (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care). The aim of the email to all Members was to be helpful, in view of the large number of queries being received from members of the public on vaccinations.		

Supplementary: Councillor Kate Taylor (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) was aware of the concerns and this issue would be pursued further with her.

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
2	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Chris Penberthy	Councillor Nick Kelly had been approached and had read the recent article in the newspaper relating to the Council match funding to a maximum of £20k the Lord High Admiral pub project. Crowd funding was a very powerful initiative that brought the community together and it was an essential way of providing funding. People had been astonished at the large sum given to a single company. Could the Cabinet Member clarify the criteria and review it, in light of the public outcry to the recent funding?
<p>Response: The City Change Fund and its partnership with Crowd Fund UK had been hugely successful and had won both national and international awards since its launch in 2015. To date, it had distributed £1.5m over 100 community projects. This was funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy and other external sources and was not funded by the tax payer. This was a levy that developers paid to help support development in the city.</p> <p>The Lord High Admiral pub was a specific project which had been in response to the Covid pandemic. It met the terms and conditions and the seven assessment criteria as set out on the Council's website, as well as Crowd Fund UK's website. The project had demonstrated how it supported the local community in a deprived area of the city which had experience a large amount of development. The hub was used by other businesses, worked closely with the arts community and was also heavily involved community organisations.</p> <p>A review of the criteria had taken place last year when a climate emergency bonus was introduced. This included updating the criteria to reflect issues arising from the Covid pandemic which had been already impacting the city. It was not the right time to change the criteria for existing or potential applicants as this could impact the work that had already started.</p> <p>Anyone could apply to the scheme including businesses or organisations with an interest in the City Change Fund. Applications went through an open and transparent process and were assessed on the application's own merits. The Lord High Admiral pub project had over 600 local supporters including businesses who had supported the project with their own money. This was a clear indication of the community support for this project,</p>			
Supplementary: Whether Councillor Chris Penberthy could determine how much money was left in the fund for other crowd funding opportunities?			

Response: The funding changed all the time depending on how much money developers had paid into the levy and how much money had been spent on other pledges.

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
3	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Mark Lowry	With regard to the removal of the Sir John Hawkins road sign, was the Cabinet Member aware that a complaint had been filed with the City Council and Devon and Cornwall Police, as this was in breach of the outcome of the court case held on 4 December 2020.
	Response: No comment would be made on this matter until the appeal had been dealt with by the Council and the courts.		
	Supplementary: If an appeal was lodged, would the sign for the Square be reinstated until the outcome of the appeal was known?		
	Response: The signs would not be reinstated.		

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
4	Councillor Kevin Neil	Councillor Chris Penberthy	<p>Following the recent Government announcement on the additional £10m to councils for extra support with rough sleepers and the ban on bailiff evictions to 21 February 2021, whether Plymouth was being allocated any of this additional funding? Could the Cabinet Member provide a progress update on rough sleepers?</p> <p>As the £10m needed to be spent by 31 March 2021, what was the Cabinet Member's thoughts on whether this was good planning or whether he would have a different ask of Government as to the support that was required in Plymouth to drive out rough sleeping for good?</p>
	<p>Response: The Cabinet Member referred Councillor Neil to the scrutiny session on homelessness and also budget scrutiny. The proportion of the £10m extra funding being allocated to Plymouth was not yet known (the Cabinet Member would ask officers to provide a response to this).</p> <p>It was not helpful to receive piecemeal funding when the Council was trying to create long term solutions. The winter provision funding would be received in January 2021 and would need to be spent by the end of March 2021 which left just two months to spend the funding. The Council would do everything it could to maximise the funding from the Government.</p> <p>The Council had asked the Government to combine all homelessness funding into one stream, to make an announcement of the funding allocation earlier and provide funding on a three year rolling cycle which would allow for further strategic interventions to provide a roof over someone's head,</p>		

	ensure support to make it a home of their own and one which could be sustained. The Council had made a long-term commitment to the Plymouth Alliance to substantially address the problems and make sure homeless people got the very best service from the Council.
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	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
5	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Councillor Mark Coker	Whether progress had been made with compiling information on the usage and incidents that had occurred on the cycle path?
Response: A report would be compiled within the next four to six weeks which would provide details of the usage of the city centre cycle lane and also the problems that had been encountered with the temporary scheme.			

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
6	Councillor Dave Downie	Councillor Sue Dann	Whether an explanation could be provided on the glaring disparity relating to the time it took to remove fly tipping in different wards across the city (some wards had fly tipping removed within one to two days, whilst in Budshead it took two weeks)?
Response: Fly tipping was dealt with as and when cases were reported, not on a geographical hierarchy nor on a political basis, however this issue would be investigated. Fly tipping within the city had been reduced by 33%. The Council was 'hot' on dealing with fly tipping and ensuring that the environmental criminals were caught.			

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
7	Councillor Eddie Rennie	Councillor Chris Penberthy	As you may be aware, the Labour Party put a motion to Parliament last week opposing the cruel cut to Universal Credit. What affect would the cut have on Plymouth and its poorest people?
Response: (Councillor Tudor Evans, OBE provided a response due to technical difficulties being encountered by Councillor Chris Penberthy).			
There were 22,000 people in Plymouth that claimed Universal Credit. During the debate in Parliament a number of Conservative MPs had stated that this issue could be solved through work, however this benefit provided money to the working poor. The £20 uplift was due to end and the Labour motion had asked the Government whether this would continue. The £20 uplift was desperately needed as the referrals to food banks had increased, child poverty had increased and the working poor were getting poorer. This was not the time to withdraw the benefit.			
Supplementary: Could the Leader confirm, to the best of his knowledge, that the poorest and the most vulnerable people in the city would suffer if this cut was implemented?			
Response: Yes. There was an incredible amount of people in Plymouth that			



<p>relied on Universal Credit. There had been a dramatic increase in unemployment, wage cuts and shorter working hours. It was hoped that the Government would maintain the uplift.</p>
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	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
8	Councillor Pam Buchan	Councillor Chris Penberthy	Councillor Buchan had been disappointed that the Government had not fully funded the discretionary element of the track and trace self-isolation grant scheme and was concerned about the impact this was having on low paid workers. Thanked the Cabinet Member for campaigning on this issue and asked whether there was anything else that he could do?
<p>Response: The Cabinet Member had been pleased to receive some sort of response from the Government. This would mainly impact low paid workers, who had to self-isolate, would lose their income and were not in receipt of a qualifying benefit. This was a public health issue and one which he was concerned about. He would be writing to the ministers again this week. The executive decision that he signed a couple of months ago would finish at the end of this week. Discussions would be held with the Strategic Director of Customer and Corporate Services to look at the current funding shortfall and opportunities to extend this scheme, alongside the main scheme, until the end of March 2021.</p> <p>It was essential that the Government continued to support the most financially vulnerable, who did not immediately qualify for this scheme and ensure that the public health need of people isolating, if in low paid jobs and where at risk of losing income continued. If the Government would not step in and support the vulnerable then this caring Council would. He hoped to be able to make an announcement regarding this issue, later in the week.</p>			

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
9	Councillor Patrick Nicholson	Councillor Sue Dann	With regard to tree felling, would the Cabinet Member consider introducing consultations with Ward Members on the reasons for the decision, as scrutiny of the merits of removing trees would be welcomed? On occasion, the Parks Department had felled prominent trees, on Plymouth City Council land, without any apparent reason.
<p>Response: The Cabinet Member took this suggestion on board and would look to adopt this approach going forward. Better engagement with Ward Members had already been discussed relating to how to report back to those who had donated to the tree planting programme, as part of their community grant.</p>			

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
10	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Mark Lowry	Whether the wording used for checking the eligibility of an individual for the Council Tax single person discount could be reviewed and made less confrontational? More mature residents found it quite upsetting to receive the letter challenging their eligibility.
	Response: This issue had already been brought to the Cabinet Member's attention and a review of the wording had been requested, noting the concerns of elderly residents regarding the nature of this letter. If changes were made, Councillor Nick Kelly would be informed,		

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
11	Councillor Margaret Corvid	Councillor Sue Dann	Whether information could be provided on how the computer led intelligence that had been gathered in waste and street services was driving efficiency during the pandemic?
	Response: The intelligence gathered by the waste collectors had enabled the identification of areas, in particular the side streets that had waste issues, contaminated bins and additional waste which had made a real difference to how the refuse crews were supported. The waste collectors had been out during the whole of pandemic and the evidence gathered had been vital in providing extra support.		
	A new system was also being used for tracking evidence based fly tipping and where areas needed to be cleansed. Extra capacity had been put in to cleaning the back lanes and removing fly tipping. Evidence was also collect on the neighbourhood sweeps. This enabled staff and resources to be more efficiently deployed which was particularly relevant in the inner city areas where there was a high density of population.		

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
12	Councillor Terri Beer	Councillor Sue Dann	Some elderly residents, not just in Plympton but across the city would be unable to accommodate the new garden waste wheelie bin on their properties. Could assurance be given by the Cabinet Member that in these cases the residents would be allowed to continue to use the garden waste bags?
	Response: The new garden waste wheelie bins had arrived in the city and delivery of them would commence at the end of this month. The new garden waste service had been implemented due to both health and safety issues, with the collectors having to lift tonnes of garden waste and the need to increase efficiency of this service.		
	It was recognised that not all homes would be able to accommodate the		

<p>new wheelie bins. Once the new bins had been rolled out, people would be assessed to see if they were eligible for the exemption policy. People would need to contact the Council to apply for an exemption. This however would mean that people eligible for an exemption would not have their garden waste collected at the start of the introduction of the new service in April 2021. The exemption policy would only affect a minority of people in the city.</p>
<p>Supplementary: Some elderly residents would struggle to get the bins through their properties and out on to the pavement but they were able to manage a bag.</p>
<p>Response: It was acknowledged that there would be some residents that would not be able to have a garden waste wheelie bin on their property. These residents would need to apply for an exemption which would be fairly assessed. The exemption policy would be for those residents that genuinely could not keep a wheelie bin on their property.</p>

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
13	Councillor Terri Beer	Councillor Sue Dann	What was the policy for resurfacing residential streets in the city (not the main roads), as there were issues where the foundations were showing through due to wear and tear (these roads had been neglected for years)?
			Response: Councillor Sue Dann advised that this was Councillor Mark Coker's portfolio.
			Response: Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) advised that all roads/streets and pavements were assessed by a company called Gaist and that this information was available to all councillors. Once the survey had been undertaken, officers would be able to assess which roads/streets needed to be repaired, based on the information provided by Gaist. Part of this process included repairing roads/streets before they began to show signs of wear and tear, in order to protect them for the future.
			The Cabinet Member requested that the name of the roads/streets be provided, in order to raise these concerns with the relevant officers and provide a response.

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
14	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Tudor Evans	How many councillors either in the Labour Group, Conservative Group or Independents had undertaken the equality and diversity training?
			Response: Sought clarification regarding the question relating to whether there was a time limit for when councillors had to do the training, or how many councillors had been trained to this point (not how many councillors would receive the training).
			Equality and diversity training would be available to all councillors and

	should form part of the councillor induction training, following the May 2021 elections for both returning and new councillors. A detailed response would be provided if Councillor Singh could provide his precise request.
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	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
15	Councillor Andrea Johnson	Councillor Tudor Evans	Along with other Members she had been saddened by the news of the loss of the troubled department store, Debenhams and that all thoughts went out to those staff affected by this. What were the early thoughts on the risk of this becoming a gaping hole in the city centre?
<p>Response: The Council's Economic Development team and the City Centre Company had been working closely with the company. The company had folded as the rescue package had not taken place. The announcement of the closure of the store which had been made today was very sad. The Council wished to see the building retained for shopping, as it was a key store in the city centre. Both the Economic Development team and the City Centre Company were working hard to try and get new investment in the city centre.</p> <p>There was new investment in the city centre which included the new hotel in the former Woolworths building, the hotel and accommodation in the former Co-op Derry's building and the major transformation of the former BHS building. There was a lot of interest in investing in the city centre, so it was too early to be pessimistic.</p>			

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
16	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Sue Dann	What specific actions were being taken to increase the recycling rates in the city, given the Council's aspirational target was 65%, with the latest recycling figure being 38.2%?
<p>Response: The Covid pandemic had impacted the amount of domestic waste collected over the last 10 months together with the delay in implementing the garden waste collection service. There would be multiple actions in order to achieve the recycling target.</p> <p>As part of the Street Service vision and the Climate Emergency Action Plan target for this year, there would be a campaign on waste hierarchy. People would be encouraged to recycle more with education around what could be recycled, as people were still unsure. The 'on the go' recycle bins in the city centre would contain more information as to what could be recycled (coffee cups could not be recycled as they were classed as contaminated waste).</p> <p>People would also be encouraged to reduce the waste they created and re-use items. There would be a campaign and narrative around this which linked to a behavioural change action point contained in the Climate</p>			

	Emergency Action Plan.
	Supplementary: Whether consideration had been given to turning the recycling centre at Chelson Meadow into a depository for sinks, basins and DIY items that were too good to be smashed up. This would boost the recycling rate and the Council would play a prominent part in facilitating this.
	Response: the Council already worked with a couple of providers who assessed whether any items at Chelson Meadow could be re-used. This scheme would be expanded to include the collection of DIY waste, as a separate entity.