

## Cabinet

Thursday 7 July 2022

### PRESENT:

Councillor Bingley, in the Chair.

Councillor Shayer, Vice Chair.

Councillors Drean, Carlyle, Dr Mahony, Patel, Smith, Stoneman and Wakeham.

The meeting started at 3.30 pm and finished at 4.45 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.*

#### 14. Declarations of Interest

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Jonathan Drean	All	Family member works for Brittany Ferries	Private
Councillor James Stoneman	14 – Parking Modernisation and Environment Plan	Father works in the parking department for Plymouth City Council	Private

#### 15. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### 16. Questions from the Public

**Q.** Dr J. Steadman – The taxi policy in place is having the effect of those drivers transporting users of wheelchairs contemplating retirement of licensing elsewhere. Plymouth City Council should encourage the retention of drivers and not accelerate numbers declining, would you reconsider the policy in order to recruit or maintain more drivers?

**A.** Councillor Richard Bingley, Leader of the Council – we have 100% wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage fleet to ensure that the Council does not discriminate against disabled drivers. There had been 293 hackney carriage drivers, 63 with a medical exemption which would leave 230 hackney carriage drivers available to transport wheelchair customers. There had been a number of private hire vehicles that could take wheelchairs and details could be found via the website:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/licensingandpermits/taxilicensing/transportingwheelchairuser>

There had been 650 private hire vehicles which could also assist wheelchair users if they had been able to transfer into the vehicle, as most standard carry wheelchairs could be stored in

the standard luggage compartment. There had been a national shortage of taxi drivers, however the policy had not had a negative impact on wheelchair accessible vehicles and Plymouth had the most wheelchair accessible vehicles in Devon.

Plymouth City Council had removed the limit on the number of hackney carriage vehicles so anyone could apply for a HCV license at any time. The Council had encouraged drivers to return to the trade by removing the requirement to re-take the knowledge test. The Council had been reviewing the knowledge test to make this less onerous to new applicants whilst also maintaining standards.

A Select Committee would be arranged as part of Scrutiny and Cabinet had reiterated that it had not been satisfied overall and that the City deserved and needed better taxi provision. The Council had been actively reviewing ways to deliver a good taxi provision for the City as part of the higher value jobs agenda and to maintain investment into Plymouth.

17. **Chair's Urgent Business**

The Chair had no urgent business.

18. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Richard Bingley, Leader of the Council:

- a) Congratulated Dr Ruth Harrell who received an honorary Doctorate from the University of St Mark and St John who demonstrated excellent and critical leadership during the pandemic;
- b) Congratulated Jonathan Bell who had won the South West's Head Planner of the year award for 2022. Jonathan beat other large scale projects in the South West and would progress through to the national awards. The Leader of the Council thanked Jonathan for his hard work and dedication to the City of Plymouth.

**Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Richard Bingley who had been covering the portfolio for Governance, HR, IT & Community Safety:

- a) Formed a group to look at violent crime, repeat crime and violent crime against women and girls. The first preliminary meetings would be held to devise a comprehensive strategy by analysing good practice not only nationally but from around the world;

Councillor Shayer, Deputy Leader and portfolio holder for Finance and Economy highlighted:

- a) Working with Destination Plymouth an Armed forces guide had been produced to offer discounts from local businesses to service personnel and veterans across the city. The guide was available electronically and would be distributed to the Armed Forces network for use by locally based forces as well as those visiting vessels and units. The initiative had

been created by Peter Coulson and supported by Plymouth City Council and the Armed Forces team.

- b) From 11 July 2022 Statutory instruments for Plymouth and South Devon were laid before parliament that officially Plymouth would have a Freeport and would be mobilising over the next 6 month period and undertaking the recruitment of a Chair and Chief Executive;
- c) Welcomed the Nautical Institute of Plymouth for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference which would be held the week of 4 July 2022.

Councillor Bill Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene highlighted:

- a) Gridding growth had been a challenge for the council who had been tackling this problem with mechanical sweepers which had been fitted with new mechanical systems to help remove the system of weeds. This would be a more environmentally friendly approach for the City.
- b) The Council had been trialling a gas fuelled burner in which a flame would be placed over vegetation until it wilts;
- c) The Council would be purchasing two Kersten Quick-Attach70 systems which had been trialled recently and allowed a wide range of instruments to be changed within seconds.

Councillor James Stoneman, Cabinet Member for Climate Change highlighted:

- a) Work had been underway to install heat pumps of Ballard House as part of the Council's Decarbonisation strategy;

Councillor Charlotte Carlyle, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, and Children and Young People highlighted:

- a) The Council had welcomed 42 Ukrainian refugee children under the age 18 of which 32 had been under 16 years of age. These children had been doing well and were settling well in the City.

Councillor Jonathan Dreaan, Cabinet Member for Transport highlighted:

- a) A number of contracts to improve the City's sustainability transport offer had been given approval. The first would commit £800,000 to the first of 23 mobility hubs – these sites would be allocated to e-car clubs, e-bike hire and electric vehicle arrangements. This project had been funded by the Department for Transport, Transforming Cities Fund;
- b) Continuing to invest in sustainable transport infrastructure in the East of the City and the Council awarded £871,000 to continue to the Eastern Corridor's Strategic Cycle route from Saltram Meadow to Colesdown Hill which would provide a high quality cycling and walking

route along the former railway road to Billacombe road;

- c) £115,000 would be invested in July 2022 to improve cycling infrastructure along Billacombe Road;
- d) Trials had been carried out in parts the city on a new form of resurfacing;
- e) Working in partnership with the South West Highways alliance to maintain carbon reduction momentum;
- f) Fibre connection upgrade had been nearing completion for the new planned CCTV centre at Chealson Meadow.

Councillor Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport highlighted:

- a) Green tourism promoted by Destination Plymouth to support Plymouth's tourism and hospitality and leisure sector had been moving forward successfully. 34 business had signed up at the end June 2022 with one business going through the full accreditation process and received a gold award, 38 other businesses across the city had become welcome hosts and received gold training. A further 30 had received the green sustainability training. The sign up window for the scheme had been extended to the end of September 2022;
- b) A national collection of 10 bookable National Marine Park visitor experiences had been developed and would be launched before the end of July 22;
- c) Councillor Patel visited the Mayflower museum located on the Barbican and encouraged residents of Plymouth to visit the exhibition.
- d) Plymouth would host SAILGP at the end of July 2022, which had injected £7.7 mil into the local economy in 2021 with 27,000 spectators viewing the spectacle;

Councillor Dr John Mahony, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Planning highlighted:

- a) The Inaugural meeting NHS Devon Local Care Partnership took place on 7 July 2022. Plymouth City Council looked forward to working with NHS following the implementation of this new organisation for the benefit of all of Plymouths Communities.

20. **Plymouth's Delivery Plan**

Councillor Richard Bingley, Leader of the Council presented this item to Cabinet and highlighted the four key priorities for the Council:

- Creating higher value jobs
- Delivering good quality green homes
- Ensuring decent education and
- Providing access to first class health and care

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. Adopt Plymouth's Future: Our Opportunity, Our Delivery Plan as a statement of the administration's key priorities for delivery
2. Ensure that arrangements are put in place to ensure that progress towards delivery of the plan's actions is monitored and reported

21. **Skills 4 Plymouth Strategic Plan**

Councillor Charlotte Carlyle, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People presented the report to Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. Approve the Skills 4 Plymouth strategic plan
2. Delegate oversight, strategic direction and delivery of the Skills 4 Plymouth strategic plan and action plan to the Employment and Skills Board

22. **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Councillor Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council presented this item to Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to:-

- 1) Endorse the approach taken by Plymouth City Council towards the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- 2) Agree to accept the UKSPF funds from Government and act as the accountable body with responsibility to distribute the funds.
- 3) Delegate approval and sign-off of the Investment Plan for submission to Government to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

23. **Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge**

Tracey Lee, Chief Executive presented this item to Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. Extend its thanks on behalf of the Council to the Peer Challenge team for their work.
2. Note and endorse the recommendations of the LGA Corporate Peer Review as set out in the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report.
3. Agree and implement the action plan to deliver on the recommendations set out in the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report.

24. **Finance Monitoring Report Month Two**

Councillor Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report to Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. Note the report and the current revenue monitoring position

25. **Plymouth Crematorium - Capital Budget Variation**

Councillor Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport presented this item to Cabinet.

Councillor Chris Penberthy, Chair of Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented recommendations from the Committee for Cabinets consideration and included:

1. Cabinet were encouraged to act swiftly in signing a design and build contract for the construction of the Crematorium works;
2. The full updated business case for the Crematorium project was submitted to the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be discussed under part 2;
3. A governance board was established by Cabinet with cross party membership as a matter of urgency for the Crematorium project.
4. A 'lessons learnt' exercise in terms of internal processes (skills development, internal project management of major developments, etc) is initiated in order to inform future major capital projects undertaken by the Council;
5. The cross party work to review the capital programme agreed as part of budget setting should review the impact of rising costs and scheduling on all capital programme activity in light of lessons being learnt from the

crematorium project;

6. That the Crematorium project is added as a standing item to the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel until the work is successfully completed and the facility in full use;
7. At the 12 September 2022 Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel, a focus upon Government guidance and regulation specifically regarding council operated crematoria and budget management is held under part 2;
8. A site visit is scheduled for Members to see the scale of the site and works on the ground.

Councillor Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport responded to the recommendations on behalf of Cabinet.

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. That Cabinet agree a virement of £13.352m from the existing FM Corporate Estate capital resources to finance the Plymouth Crematorium scheme.
2. That Cabinet note that the virement from the FM budget will ensure that overall capital commitments can be constrained within the existing level of the Capital Programme pending the usual review of the Programme as part of the 2023/24 budget process
3. Cabinet agreed to accept all 8 recommendations from the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## 26. **Parking Modernisation and Environment Plan**

Councillor Mark Shayer presented this report to Cabinet. Councillor Shayer advised Cabinet that section 4.9 of the plan had been withdrawn and 4.9 would address electric cars as a flat rate and all other permits would be raised in line with inflation.

Cabinet discussed:

- a) As part of the consultation process, Plymouth City Council would be writing to partner's such as the City Centre Company, Waterfront Partnership and disability groups. As part of the statutory consultation process Plymouth City Council would be required to advertise in local media and place notices onto lampposts across the areas it would be affecting. 17 other bodies would be consulted prior to going to public consultation;
- b) If parking on street and have time left, you could drive to another onstreet location – looking to introduce a 24 hour stay in long stay car parks and looking to increase spaces of parking bays;

- c) Plymouth City Council supported its travel and hospitality sector with parking and provided discounts to their customers. Work had been underway to transfer this transaction online through the hotels and guest houses;
- d) People using parking in the city could use the Ring-go app to extend their stay time;
- e) A trial for motorhome parking had taken place in partnership with the continental ferry operator, there had been many letters of commendation from this trial and in general motorhome parking for the city would be further looked into at the end of the summer season.
- f) Councillor Drean confirmed that he would look at the over subscribing of areas and the eligibility criteria for new permits and renewals for residential permits

Cabinet agreed to:-

- I. To undertake consultation on the proposals as set out within this report, except 4.9 and to provide a report to Cabinet on conclusion of the consultation.