

Cabinet

Thursday 11 August 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor Shayer, in the Chair.

Councillors Drear, Dr Mahony, Patel, Smith, Stoneman and Wakeham.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Carlyle and Bingley

The meeting started at 15:00 and finished at 16:07.

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.

27. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

28. **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 July 2022 were a correct record.

29. **Questions from the Public**

Q. Mr Danny Bamping - Can the Council Leader, Richard Bingley, please explain how he intends to rename Sir John Hawkins Square to Zelenskyy Square when Plymouth City Council's Policy on Street Naming clearly states "in order to avoid causing offence, either by inclusion or exclusion, or to appear biased, a street should not be named after a living person or individual."

A. Councillor Richard Bingley – I acknowledged that this is not my decision to be taken. It is a decision to be taken in line with the relevant procedures if and when the Council considers taking this issue forward.

30. **Chair's Urgent Business**

The Chair had no urgent business.

31. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Mark Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council made the following announcements on behalf of the Leader, Councillor Richard Bingley:

- a) Congratulated the Plymouth Athletes who took part in the

Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, on their tremendous performance and for bringing home 5 medals, including Ben Proud (Gold, Swimming 50m Freestyle), Giselle Ansley (Gold, Hockey), Lewis Burras (Silver, Swimming 50m Freestyle), Alison Yearling (Bronze, Lawn Bowls) & Laura Stephens (Bronze, Swimming 200m Butterfly). Councillor Mark Shayer congratulated them on the inspiration they have given younger generations and explained that he looked forward to hearing about their sporting successes in the future.

- b) Councillor Mark Shayer welcomed the announcement that plans for a £33.5million eco-friendly neighbourhood, offering more than 140 new affordable homes in the heart of the city centre has moved forward. This is another example of a ground-breaking scheme by Plymouth Community Homes in partnership with Plymouth City Council. The prospect of so many new homes, including affordable options, in such a key location is very welcome.
- c) Councillor Mark Shayer was pleased to announce, that since the last cabinet meeting, the Council has submitted a pitch for £19.9million of investment under the government's levelling up fund to unlock funding for a package of transitional and transformational infrastructure projects. This bid is result of partnership work across the city. Three key projects have been put forward including a Freeport innovation centre, which will house high value businesses, innovation and start-ups; modernisation of poor infrastructure supporting business growth, high-value jobs and international trade; and transforming the waterfront by repurposing derelict buildings to engage and inspire and train the future workforce.
- d) Garden Waste collections are to end early this year as part of urgent measures to help address a projected £13.6million overspend in the City Council' budget. The final collection round will begin on Monday 15 August 2022. It is estimated this will save around £200,000. The Council is facing a very serious financial position, largely due to national issues. Action has had to be taken now to give the Council a chance of balancing the budget at the end of the financial year 2022/23. Councillor Mark Shayer apologised for the inconvenience this might cause, but hopes that the people of Plymouth understand that the rising costs the Council are experiencing are beyond its control.

32. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Jonathan Drear, Cabinet Member for Transport presented an update to cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a) A visit had been hosted for Baroness Vere of Norbiton from the House of Lords on 25 July 2022. Among the items discussed were the Plymouth Station Regeneration Project; strategic schemes through the major route networks; the infrastructure at the Forder Valley Interchange and Forder Valley Link Road; the Northern Corridor Strategic Cycle Network; the Woolwell to the George Transport interchange scheme; plans for Manadon Roundabout; pop-up e-

chargers on The Hoe; and the EV Ferry;

- b) The CCTV Centre, VMA and UTC Tenders had been circulated and the Highways Team hoped to have upgraded software and hardware in place by next year;
- c) Micro Asphalt treatment 90,000Mtr² had been delivered from September, which is in addition to the yearly surface treatment programme;
- d) Surface Dressing of 40,000Mtr² was complete and is also in addition to the published surface treatment programme;
- e) The Ridgeway Pedestrian upgrade was completed and used recycled slabs and street furniture to reduce costs and carbon emissions;
- f) 6 major junctions had been upgraded to MOVA, funded by TCF2 with another 4 programmed for the 2022/23 financial year;
- g) Commencement of main road lining works using MMA lining that reduces Carbon emissions, lasts longer and improves visibility, this will also see city wide Zebra Crossing remarking, from September 2022.

Councillor Drean updated Cabinet with regard to Cattewater Harbour and highlighted the following key points:

- a) 95% of all cargo in and out of Plymouth, transited through the Cattewater
- b) Cattewater Harbour had facilitated over 2.2 million tonnes of cargo through the port in 2021 and equated to an increase of 370,000 tonnes from the year before;
- c) New export customers had been established in Mexico. Regular shipping routes to Mexico had been underway with the possibility of Egypt coming;
- d) Cargoes included break bulk, clay, fertiliser, salt, liquid cargo, project cargo, animal feed as well as many more, essential to the South West;
- e) Cruise, CHC increased the offering to the city for visiting vessels not wishing to visit ABP;
- f) Port had a programme underway engaging with schools, giving students a hands on experience of trade that passed through Plymouth, as well as opportunities to meet the staff, and an afternoon afloat viewing Port facilities;
- g) 10 apprentices commenced work over an 18 month period in the port;
- h) Millions had been invested into the port over the previous 18 months, from shore cranes to vessels.

Councillor Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment & Street Scene presented an update to cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a) Apologies to the residents of Plymouth for the early end of Garden Waste Collections, the decision had been very necessary to prevent further budget issues;
- b) Thanked and paid tribute to all of the Council's outdoor workers who had all been working in extreme heat;
- c) Crews had been working to remove weeds from central reservations and kept on top of weeds across the city as they continued to grow.

Councillor Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport presented an update to cabinet and highlighted the following key points:

- a) Thanked the events, leisure, National Marine Park, Street Services teams and partners who ensured Plymouth had the very best events the city had ever had over the summer period;
- b) The digital inclusion network had been recognised at the National SOCITM Awards in winning the award for best outcome for a community group or area;
- c) More than 2,500 children registered for the Summer Reading Challenge with Plymouth Libraries which had been higher than 2021;
- d) The registrations services were in 'wedding season' and conducting many ceremonies each week and were going above and beyond and had been fully committed to individual customer needs, including short notice ceremonies for vulnerable and terminally ill patients. The registration service was also working closely with the Lord Mayor to modernise the citizenship service and ceremony to bring Plymouth's history to life. Councillor Patel encouraged Cabinet Members who had not yet attended a citizenship ceremony to do so;
- e) Sail GP was hosted by Plymouth at the end of July and an estimated 30,000 spectators watched the event from land and water, including HRH Duchess of Cambridge. At least 20 organisations worked in partnership to make the event happen, as well as all the hard work from Plymouth City Council staff. There were 51 millions views of Sail GP Plymouth on TikTok alone, with coverage on Sky Sports. 1137 young people were directly involved in the inspire program including 225 children and adults with additional needs and 150 young people would be gaining sailing qualifications as part of the legacy program;
- f) First anniversary since the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park received £9.5million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the benefits of this investment is already being felt across the city with a summer calendar of community activities and over 6,000 residents having

been engaged. The CEO of the Heritage Fund visited Plymouth to mark the anniversary and there was a tour to show what work had already taken place;

- g) The 25 Anniversary of the British Firework Championships would be this year and the event would take place on 17 and 18 August 2022;
- h) West End Carnival would be taking place on 27 August 2022 11am-4pm with a free, family-friendly, fun-packed day;
- i) The Box had been re-awarded the Archive Services Accreditation by The National Archives which recognised good performance in all areas of archive service delivery and was a welcome acknowledgement of the hard work done by colleagues working at The Box.

33. **Finance and Capital Monitoring Report Month 3**

Councillor Mark Shayer, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report and Tracey Lee, Chief Executive highlighted the following points:

- a) The unprecedented position the Council is in
- b) The importance of finding savings to balance the budget
- c) The forecast for the future

Cabinet agreed to:-

- 1. Note the forecast revenue monitoring at period three
- 2. Note the capital expenditure of the capital programme at period three
- 3. Note the quarter one capital programme update
- 4. Note the work of the cabinet working group on the commercial income
- 5. Note the update of the revenue budget environment
- 6. That the report goes forward for consideration at the next meeting of Full Council on 19 September 2022.

34. **Modern Slavery Update**

Councillor Rebecca Smith, Cabinet Member for Homes & Communities, presented the update.

Cabinet agreed to:-

- 1) Accept the new Modern Slavery Statement and Policy.

35. **Community Equipment Service Contract Award Report**

Councillor Dr John Mahony, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Planning presented the report as well as Emma Crowther, highlighting:

- a) The service was jointly funded between Plymouth City Council and NHS Devon ICB (formerly CCG). They would sign off their part of the decision making process on 17 August 2022.
- b) To support budget, planning prices in the new contract would be held for 12 months for equipment and for 3 years for activities such as cleaning and delivery of equipment.
- c) All providers involved in the procurement had flagged likely future challenges in relation to the cost of service delivery, in particular the cost of fuel.
- d) The outcome of this tender involved a change from the incumbent Millbrook to a new provider, NRS. Time had been built into the project plan to allow for the transfer of equipment and premises to avoid disruption to service users.

Cabinet agreed to:-

- I) Award the contract of Plymouth Community Equipment Services, for the period 2023 to 2026, to NRS as the highest scoring tender.