

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council

**City Centre public realm 'improvements'**

Council notes the ongoing, new and planned public realm works in the City Centre and recognises the need for action to be taken to improve the environment for all users of the City Centre and to respond to the Climate Emergency.

Council confirms that it -

- believes that there has been inadequate public consultation on the proposals for the City centre public realm improvements;
- is concerned by the substantial delays and lack of progress on the works to New George Street and Old Town Street resulting in the public realm being laid waste to the detriment of the residential, retail and natural environment;
- believes that it was extremely unwise to let a stand-alone contract to clear Armada Way and not to have made any contractual arrangements for improvements;
- is concerned that Armada Way will be laid waste in the same manner as New George Street and Old Town Street to the further detriment of the residential, retail and natural environments;
- welcomes the pause to tree felling announced by Cllr Drean at the November meeting of Council in order to reflect on public concerns about the Armada Way plans but is concerned about the lack of engagement with the public since that time;
- questions the wisdom of starting a major work programme in Mayflower Street whilst two other City Centre public realm improvement schemes appear to be stalled and are blighting Plymouth;
- believes that the commencement of a fourth programme in Guildhall Square should not happen until the existing schemes are completed in order not to further blight the city.

Council therefore resolves:

1. to request the Cabinet Member for Transport to publicly apologise to the people of Plymouth for the actions to date in relation to Old Town Street, New George Street and Armada Way improvements detailing the mistakes that have been made, the lessons learned and state how the approach will be rectified both in the current schemes and in future.
2. to request that Cabinet undertake a meaningful community engagement process before finalising any designs for Armada Way;
3. to request that Cabinet publish detailed information on how the current proposals for all four City Centre public realm improvement schemes will address the Climate Emergency and enhance the environment;
4. to request that Cabinet publish detailed full annual maintenance costs for the current New George Street, Old Town Street and Armada Way developments.
5. to request that Cabinet commit to not starting improvements to Guildhall Square until the existing work programmes are completed.

Proposed by: Councillor Mark Coker

Signature: Approved by email

Seconded by: Councillor George Wheeler

Signature: Approved by email