

City Council

Monday 18 March 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Shayer, in the Chair.

Councillor Ms Watkin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Luggier, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tofan, Tuffin, Tuohy and Wakeham.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bingley, Dr Cree, Darcy, Partridge, Poyser, Reilly and Rennie.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.30 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.

86. 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	Item Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Stevens	8b (Keyham Unexploded Bomb)	Employment with Devon and Cornwall Police.	Personal
Councillor Penberthy	6 (Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027)	Member of Plymouth Energy Community Board (PEC)	Pecuniary

87. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc

The Council agreed to note the report.

88. Questions from Members of the Public

The following question was submitted by Jan Millar

Question: Armada Way costs have escalated to £36.8m funded by Council borrowing. What are the implications of the interest payments on this loan	Response: The current Capital Programme includes a funding allocation and Cabinet agreed any increased overall funding allocation required for
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<p>over the period of the loan, on the revenue budget and how has this been evaluated and scrutinised in the budget setting exercise?</p>	<p>the Armada Way scheme will need to be constrained within the levels of the current financial envelope as set out in the MTFP through the re-profiling of the approved Capital Programme. Officers are in the process of considering the capital programme to see what adjustments will be needed to accommodate any increase in cost for the Armada Way scheme.</p>
<p>The following question was submitted by Kevin Allaway</p>	
<p>Question: Parklands Children's home, was run by DCC from 1968 until closure in the mid 80's. In 1998 a transfer of Social Care responsibility meant PCC became the responsible body. National Archives for Parklands have not been updated since 1971. Who is currently responsible for depositing updated records for this establishment?</p>	<p>Response: Following Plymouth City Council becoming a unitary authority the individual files of Plymouth children who had been in care, but whose cases were by this time closed, remained the responsibility of Devon County Council. The files of those children remaining in care, or otherwise still open to Children's Social Care at the time Plymouth became a unitary authority are retained by Plymouth City Council, in line with our document retention policy.</p> <p>There is no obligation to deposit information of this nature with the National Archives.</p>
<p>The following question was submitted by Christopher Oram</p>	
<p>Question: Drainage works on the corner of Allern and Linton Roads, Tamerton commissioned by PCC. The work has taken so long that vegetation is growing out of the offending collapsed drain. When it floods and freezes, this road is dangerous for our residents. Will the member meet with me to discuss?</p>	<p>Response: The roads referenced in the question are not part of the responsibility of the City Council. I will of course meet with Councillor Oram to discuss the matter.</p>

89. **Announcements**

Councillor Shayer (Lord Mayor of Plymouth) made the following announcements:

- a) Made Councillors aware of, and opportunity for donations to, the charity “Jeremiah’s Journey”, which played a vital role in supporting children, young people and their families during challenging and emotional times when a loved one passed away or faced a terminal illness;

- b) The 2024 citywide “Enough” campaign, created by the Trevi charity had been initiated. This initiative aimed to combat gender-based violence and raise awareness about the urgent need to end violence against women and girls;
- c) The Youth Parliament election results evening had transpired on Wednesday 13 March 2024. The Lord Mayor passed on congratulations to all successful candidates.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) made the following announcements, providing elucidation on the actions of the Council during the previous year:

- d) There was concern from the administration of the instability of both national and local government during 2022/23;
- e) The current administration was working to deliver on key priorities including employment, affordable housing, community safety, the availability of NHS dentists, supporting the elderly, looking after children at risk of harm, roads maintenance and improvement of bus services;
- f) The Council was committed to assisting those in need during the cost-of-living crisis and a Cost-of-Living Action Plan had been created and implemented within the preceding year;
- g) Investment in the City had been ensured after securing the following funding;
 - I. £1.3 million funding for a programme of works at Millbay docks;
 - II. nearly £20 million to regenerate the city by accelerating the Freeport, National Marine Park and Net Zero vision;
 - III. £11.6 million funding boost from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver the UK’s first National Marine Park;
 - IV. £50 million for the Civic Centre residential redevelopment;
 - V. £25 million for Brickfields for a sports led regeneration;
 - VI. £80 million for the Brunel Plaza regeneration scheme;
- h) New employment opportunities at Oceansgate, Langage, Sherford, Derriford and the City Centre continued to be fostered;
- i) The Council continued to prioritise the regeneration of the City Centre with a new commitment to delivery on housing working with Homes England.

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) made the following announcements:

- j) The Celebrating Excellence in Care Awards would take place on Saturday 23 March 2024. These awards would celebrate the very best staff working within the adult social care sector of the city;
 - l. The variety of awards considered were in the categories of: 'Innovation in Partnerships and Engagement', 'Care Worker of the Year', 'Excellence in Dimension care', 'Volunteer of the Year' Rising Star Award' and also 'Service User Stories';
- k) A showcase of careers in Health and Social Care would take place on 19 April 2024 at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel for people looking to change careers and who would like further information about working within the caring profession;

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications) provided the following update and announcements;

- l) The 'Planet Ocean' exhibition, exploring pivotal moments in Plymouth's past and present relationship with the sea had commenced at The Box and the Councillor urged people to attend;
- m) Congratulated The Box which celebrated its 250,000th visitor ahead of schedule;
- n) Ofsted published its findings from the ILACS inspection undertaken in January 2024 and found significant improvements had been made since the previous visit in 2022. Staff within Plymouth Children's Services department were thanked for their hard work in instigating these improvements;
- o) The report found that improvements were necessary in some areas, which included: the response to concerns for children out of office hours, the effectiveness of some aspects of joint working across the council and with partner agencies, the quality and availability of accommodation for children and young people as well as the timeliness of health assessments for children in care;

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) provided the following update regarding 'Cleaner Streets' priorities:

- p) Several new street sweepers had been purchased and were in operation, providing the capacity to clean up to 150 miles of streets per day;
- q) Neighbourhood cleaning teams had been established to increase structure for staff and to provide familiarity with the areas in which they operated in;
- r) A new "barrow-operative" round had been established;

- s) Rounds had been reworked in parts of the city and these would be expanded to Estover, Maidstone, Leigham, St Budeaux and North Prospect;
- t) Policies to tackle fly-tipping had been strengthened, for example ensuring Officers clean lanes they are called to in addition to clearing specific items;
- u) Fly-tipping hotspots had been identified and additional CCTV was being installed to aid enforcement.

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) provided the following updates:

- v) Following a successful application to the apprenticeship provider and assessment register, the Local Authority would commence delivering apprenticeships throughout the adult education provider Encore Southwest;
- w) The initial focus would be on youth work, early years, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and to serve our internal training requirements working alongside colleges and training providers;
- x) 60 internship placements had been achieved, up four placements in the last month and 51 placements in the last year;
- y) The aspiration would be to raise this to 100 places across the city;
- z) There was great support and interest from employers for the scheme;
- aa) The first Supported Internship celebration event was held on the 8th of March;
- bb) The City's first personalised careers and education guide 'Green Horizons', which articulated the green pathways in the City personalised with local training, businesses and jobs, would be released in the coming weeks.

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure & HR, and OD) presented an update regarding the Cost of Living Plan as well as Sports and Leisure within the City:

- cc) The 'Online Cost of Living Hub' had been visited by more than 29,000 people since 23 August 2023;
 - I. Around half of the 29,000 users had accessed information regarding the Household Support Fund (13,957 users), a fund which supported families during the Cost of Living Crisis- particularly those who were entitled to free school meals during the school holidays and families in crisis through Children's Services, Homelessness and the Community Connections departments;
 - II. The Fund had had enough funds to last approximately six months;

III. Communication was an essential element of the plan and was accessible online and was being advertised locally;

IV. Advice regarding “free things to do” was heavily accessed.

dd) The “Active to Thrive conference” was to take place at the Leisure Centre on the 22 March 2024 to support citizens to become more active physically and to support elite sportspeople achieve their aims.

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities) provided the following updates:

ee) Provided an outline of the roles and responsibilities of, and thanked for their hard work and commitment, the Community Connections team and the Disabled Facilities Grant team. The teams had cooperated to close 204 cases during the elapsed period of the year;

ff) The new Resettlement Support Service Contract had been awarded;

gg) This was comprised of five separate local bodies in partnership, including the Odil’s Learning Foundation, Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support, Plymouth Access To Housing (PATH) and Students and Refugees Together (START).

(Councillor Tofan left the meeting at the conclusion of this item)

90. **Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027**

The report was introduced by Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) and seconded by Councillor Stoneman.

After contributions from Councillors McLay, Penrose, Lugger, Evans OBE, Harrison, Penberthy, Dann, and Nicholson the Council agreed to:

I. Support and endorse the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027.

For (45)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Wakeham and Ms. Watkin.

Against (0)

Abstain (1)

Councillor Ricketts.

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)
Councillors Haydon, Shayer, Tofan and Tuohy.

91. **Lord Mayoralty 2024/25**

The item was introduced by Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and seconded by Councillor Lugger (Leader of the Opposition).

After contributions from Councillors Nicholson and Tuohy, the Council agreed to:

- I. Acknowledge the recommendation of Councillor Tuohy to the Lord Mayoralty nomination programme 2024/25.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Krizanac, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Ricketts, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms. Watkin.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)
Councillor Tofan.

(The meeting was adjourned from 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm)

92. **Motion on Notice - Parental Leave**

(Councillor Tofan returned to the meeting during this item)

The motion was introduced by Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Sport, Leisure & HR, and OD) and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

After discussion and contributions from Councillors Carlyle, Smith, Stoneman, McLay and Holloway the Council agreed:

1. To set up a cross-party review of the recommended parental leave policy drafted by the Local Government Association Labour Women's Taskforce to give all Councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting.
2. To adopt a Parental Leave Policy for Councillors on completion of the cross-party review.

For (46)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tofan, Tuffin, Tuohy and Wakeham.

Against (0)

Abstain (2)

Councillors Finn and Ms. Watkin.

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Hulme and Shayer.

93. **Motion on Notice - Keyham Unexploded Bomb - Motion of Thanks**

The item was introduced by Councillor Stevens and seconded by Councillor Sproston.

After contributions from Councillors Nicholson, Mrs. Beer, Haydon, Laing, Coker and Krizanac the Council agreed to:

- I. Express its deep and sincere gratitude to all those who assisted in the operation following the discovery of an unexploded Second World War bomb in Keyham in February 2024.

For (46)

Councillors Allen, Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Dingle, Evans OBE, Gilmour, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Ricketts, Salmon, Smith, Sproston, Stephens, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms. Watkin.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Finn, Hulme, Shayer and Tofan.

94. **Questions by Councillors**

#	From	To	Subject
I	Cllr Tippetts	Cllr Briars-Delve	There had been issues regarding the placement of bins after collection on footpaths and streets around the Mutley area. What could be done to rectify this issue?
	Response: Streets Services and the Environmental Protection Team would look to trial a pilot in the area relating to encourage people to return bins to the rightful place.		

	Supplementary: Would it be possible to be updated when CCTV is put in place?		
	Response: Yes		
2	Cllr Tuffin	Cllr Penberthy	How will the Council ensure the Disabled Facilities Grant is provided with compliance and value-for-money in mind?
	Response: A “Dynamic Purchasing System” had been put in place as part of “INSIC”, which operated amongst 30 other local authorities. Appropriately trained staff had been put in place to complete insured work and competitive bidding processes have been employed. Technology-enabled care was being implemented to support people at the right time within the right setting.		
	Supplementary: Were you satisfied that the budget provided for the scheme was adequate to fulfil the promise of the service?		
	Response: This has been an area where funding has been provided externally from the Council. The budget at the time of this Council is around £3 million but that has been growing. I would welcome any additional funding.		
3	Cllr Raynsford	Cllr Lowry	Had a date for the commencement of works in the establishment of a Diagnostic Centre on Colin Campbell Court been decided yet?
	Response: Much of the area around Colin Campbell Court had been purchased by the Council, allowing for a firmer date to be offered. Planning Permission was expected to be granted in March, enabling works in April and the project should commence in July 2024. The expected completion date was September 2025.		
4	Cllr Watkin	Cllr Penberthy	What work was to be carried out at Jenny Cliff to reinstate the footpath?
	Response: Fencing along the footpath and steps had already been installed. Metal channels to direct water spillage from the stairs was to start within two to three weeks. Signage to indicate the uneven surface and that the stairs were to be accessed at users own risk would be installed subsequently. The intention of the works would be to prevent further erosion to the cliffs.		
	Supplementary: Would this be a long-term solution to the unsafety of the area or a ‘patch-up’ job?		
	Response: Erosion is constant and at some point the area would be unsafe. The works had been designed to maintain access for as long as possible.		
5	Cllr Nicholson	Cllr Tuffin	An item for the work programme of the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the limited resources on Highways maintenance and the quality of repairs had been submitted many months before. Would it be possible to be informed of where it was placed within the work programme?
	Response: An answer would be provided via email as quickly as one could be obtained.		
6	Cllr Mahony	Cllr Coker	There had been an unsightly trailer, with various detritus and waste within it, placed in a lane in

			<p>Peverell since October 2023. A notice dated October attached to the trailer stated it should have been removed in November 2023. When followed up, the team responded “there had been a delay in the removal due to a review of legal processes”. Could an answer be provided as to the removal of this trailer?</p>
	<p>Response: No “review of legal processes” was currently known to the Councillor and this would be investigated. The removal of the trailer would be reviewed as soon as possible.</p>		
7	Cllr Ricketts	Cllr Coker	<p>There had been an ongoing issue for some time with a broken gate on Central Park Avenue. Were any timelines available for the mending of the gate?</p>
	<p>Response: The land in question was not Highways Maintained at Public Expense (HMPE) land, although Highways were looking into the issue. This would require further Ward Councillor cooperation to continue to force closure on the issue.</p>		
	<p>Supplementary: Could something be done to render the area more safe?</p>		
	<p>Response: Council Officers would conduct a further audit of the site.</p>		
8	Cllr Harrison	Cllr Cresswell	<p>Who would the courses at the Civic Centre Skills Hub be aimed at and when was it planned to be opened?</p>
	<p>Response: The Hub would offer skills from level 2 to apprenticeship, as well as working with the college to aim at young people with SEND. Skills required within the green and blue economies would also be prioritised. The Hub was scheduled to be opened for September 2026.</p>		
9	Cllr Carlyle	Cllr Briars-Delve	<p>Had Plymouth ever implemented ‘Section 46a’ of the Environmental Protection Act in order to address the misplacement of bins on the public Highway?</p>
	<p>Response: The piece of legislation referred to is cumbersome and would require large quantities of officer capacity to implement citywide and therefore would not be viable. Other innovations and experiments had been and would continue to be investigated.</p>		
	<p>Supplementary: Could a fine or heavier deterrent be considered?</p>		
	<p>Response: A pilot scheme taking place within certain Wards would investigate possibilities of more persuasive tactics, especially in terms of repeat offenders. Education would also be an important tool.</p>		
10	Cllr McNamara	Cllr Laing	<p>Can you detail how Efford Youth Centre will benefit from the Youth Investment Fund?</p>
	<p>Response: The £2.3 million pound fund is to be used to renovate three separate youth centres across Plymouth, including Honicknowle Youth Centre, Frederick Street Youth Centre and Efford Youth and Community Centre. This would provide a complete overhaul and modern appearance, a new internal layout and a top-to-bottom refresh of equipment and resources. This is to be referred to as the FRESH project. The Council additionally committed £600,000 to address legacy repairs and maintenance of the sites to build new roofs for Efford and Honicknowle Youth centres. Due to the location, and flat roofs of those locations, the centres had been</p>		

	awarded £1 million for 'Environmentally Sustainable Solutions' including solar panels at each site. Finally, the Efford Centre had been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to modernize the Outdoor Sports Area with new fencing, lighting and play surface.		
11	Cllr Salmon	Cllr Briars-Delve	According to the Council's Carbon-Emission charts, all sectors besides vehicle fleets had declined in carbon emission production. When would figures for new electric vehicle emissions be released?
	Response: Data received in reports is staggered and data would be released when received.		
	Supplementary: Would any money already received for sustainable transport being used for hydrogen power?		
	Response: The green hydrogen plant at Langage would take a while to construct and the type of energy is in its infancy. This would be continued to be looked into over the next few years, however proven sustainable energy usage derived from electric power would make a difference within weeks rather than years.		
12	Cllr Raynsford	Cllr Penberthy	What action would take place to encourage and improve the quality of the private renter sector within the City?
	Response: Expedite outcomes for landlords who failed to provide suitable accommodation, effectively to enforce further. A new range of free training courses had been offered to willing participants. A citywide taskforce to consider an approach to cold and damp homes had been created as well as working within an entire section of the 'Plan for Homes' to combat this. New resources would be brought in to deal with medium and high-rise building and a review conducted over the next 12 months of all policy areas to ensure enforcement and licensing obligations and fines at correct levels were being attained. More housing improvement officers would be recruited.		
	Supplementary: Were figures on enforcement that had been carried out in the City available?		
	Response: Enforcement necessitated being carried out within strict statutory guidelines. Three civil penalty notices were issued which required a large amount of effort to achieve. £16,000 of fines were issued. 70 formal notices had been reacted to. 537 dwellings were improved out of 1016 inspected. 127 'category-one' hazards had been removed. The management of 77 HMOs had been contacted and 25 issues had been referred to the planning department.		
13	Cllr Mahony	Cllr Dann	Would it be possible that replies from Councillor's Casework indicated their authorship?
	Response: It is important for casework to remain within the Business Support team and for Officers not to be bombarded with work which is untracked. This ensures Council Officers complete tasks and these tasks are quantified and identified across the Council.		
14	Cllr Watkin	Cllr Lowry	What were the costs associated with the recent evacuation and clean-up of the unexploded bomb within Keyham?

	Response: Cost would be paid under a form of government insurance policy at a certain threshold which would shift the cost to national government.		
	Supplementary: Would it be covered in the budget?		
	Response: Cost would be, for the most part, covered by a contingency put aside for these things.		
15	Cllr Harrison	Cllr Coker	Would it be possible for certain bus routes to be reviewed modified, in tandem with Plymouth City Bus and other operators, to assist connections for isolated residents across the community?
	Response: Isolation worries myself greatly. The previous administration removed £800,000 from the budget. Bus services increased this year, not cut. I would be happy to discuss this matter with anyone; resident or member.		
16	Cllr Carlyle	Cllr Coker	There had been an issue with Stagecoach not running to the correct stops anymore due to an issue with the quality of roads (Ashford Road, through to Mutley). Would this be investigated?
	Response: There had been two roads causing problems with the re-introduction of the particular bus route. Happy to speak with anyone.		
17	Cllr Wakeham	Cllr Briars-Delve	Was there a plan to approach the use of glyphosates in the city?
	Response: The administration was committed to striking a balance between pesticide-free approaches to weed removal including the use of flame. However these were considered ten times more costly and had a heavier carbon impact.		

The meeting ending with thanks and best wishes from the Lord Mayor in reference to departing Councillors and with a thank you in turn from the Leader of the Council to the Lord Mayor for their persistence throughout the year.