

City Council

Monday 12 October 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor K Foster, in the Chair.

Councillor Drean, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Berrow, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bragg, Brookshaw, Coker, Dann, Delbridge, Mrs Dolan, Evans, M Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, Gordon, James, Jordan, Kerswell, King, Michael Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Miller MBE, Monahan, Mrs Nelder, Mrs Nicholson, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Purnell, Rennie, Reynolds, Ricketts, Roberts, Dr. Salter, Smith, Stark, Mrs Stephens, Stevens, Thompson, Tuohy, Vincent, Viney, Mrs Watkins, Wheeler, Wiggins and Wildy.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Browne, Fox, Martin Leaves, Sam Leaves and Lock.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.05 pm.

Note: 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.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2009 were signed as a correct record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

39. The Lord Mayor

(i) Alderman Eileen Evans

The Lord Mayor referred to the death, on 25 June 2009, of Alderman Eileen Evans who was the Lord Mayor of Plymouth in 1998-99 and became an Honorary Alderman of Devon County Council in 1998 and Honorary Alderman of Plymouth City Council in 2000.

Councillors stood in silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Councillor Tuohy

The Lord Mayor welcomed newly elected Councillor Tuohy to this, her first, City Council meeting.

(iii) Britain in Bloom and Allotment Awards

The Lord Mayor presented awards for the following:

- National: Britain in Bloom silver gilt award and award for Darwin themed local routes;
- Regional: South West in Bloom gold award and award for Darwin themed local routes;
- Neighbourhood: East End Community Group for allotments on Embankment Road.

(iv) Customer Service Excellence Award

The Lord Mayor announced that the Council's front line customer service team won a national award last week. The award highlighted Plymouth City Council as a leader in customer excellence to other authorities and public bodies who were present and it was hoped that this would soon be shared on the Cabinet Office website as best practice for others to use.

40. **Chief Executive**

Appointments to committees, outside bodies, etc.

Resolved that the following appointments were approved –

	Committee	Change of membership
(1)	Audit Committee	Councillor Tuohy to replace Councillor Wildy
(2)	Planning Committee	Councillor Tuohy to replace Councillor Wildy

41. **Leader**

(i) Business Improvement District (BID)

The city had received an award at a British BIDS Standards Board Award ceremony held last month in recognition of the successful way Plymouth’s BID had been run since it was implemented four years ago.

(ii) Funding Offer from Sport England

Plymouth City Council had received a funding offer of nearly £2m from Sport England for the Life Centre project. The Leader extended thanks to all involved in securing the bid.

42. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with paragraph 10 of the constitution, the following question was submitted by a member of the public –

Question No.	Question By	Cabinet Member	Subject
11 09/10	Mr F Sharpe	Councillor Bowyer	Downham School
Please could it be disclosed when the announcement is expected to be made that the Downham School site Plymstock is surplus to Plymouth City Council’s future requirements?			
Response:			
Downham School is due to be relocated to the Estover One School Pathfinder Campus in September 2012 if all goes well with the build at the campus. This will mean that the earliest that the Downham site would be declared surplus to requirements would be September 2012 but this does depend on the build coming in on schedule.			

Resolved that in the absence of the questioner, a written response be sent to him.

43. **LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK : PRESENTATION BY THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

The Leader welcomed members of the Youth Parliament to the Council meeting and invited them to give a presentation to Members on their role and aspirations for the future.

City Council and Youth Parliament members’ questions, suggestions and responses included –

- the Youth Parliament would welcome the opportunity to be consulted on ‘Locality working’ and would be happy to give feedback to the Council;
- the Youth Parliament cabinet appointees were not elected but were drawn from those who had demonstrated their interest in the Youth Parliament;

- regarding how City Council members could help, the Youth Parliament would welcome more aims and tasks to fulfil, more promotional opportunities and visits by City Council members to their meetings;
- City Council members reiterated their invitation to Youth Parliament members to attend Cabinet meetings;
- City Council members suggested that it would be a good idea if their contact details could be disseminated to Youth Parliament members.

Resolved that thanks be extended to the Youth Parliament members for their attendance and presentation.

44. **TO DEAL WITH ANY BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

There were no items of business outstanding for this meeting.

Councillor McDonald raised a query regarding the accuracy of a written response she had received in respect of the placement of vulnerable people in unlicensed houses in multiple occupation.

Councillor Brookshaw responded and read part of the written response to Members.

Councillor Brookshaw subsequently responded to a statement by Councillor Evans.

The Lord Mayor advised that this did not fall within the scope of the agenda item and Councillor Brookshaw agreed to speak further with Councillor McDonald outside of the meeting.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM CABINET AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

45. **Protocol for establishment of Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor James submitted resolution (3) of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board minute 10 (a) for approval. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Watkins.

Resolved that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board minute 10, resolution (3) was approved as follows –

approval and adoption of the ‘Protocol for establishment of joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee’ be confirmed.

46. **Housing Stock Transfer**

Councillor Brookshaw submitted the recommendations contained in the report for approval and the proposals were seconded by Councillor Fry.

Resolved that the recommendations be approved as follows –

- (1) it be agreed to proceed with the transfer of the Council’s housing stock to Plymouth Community Homes subject to the Council’s final approval of the Valuation Agreement, the terms of the disposal contract and to the Council obtaining all necessary consent;
- (2) the decision to transfer the housing stock be deferred and an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Council be called and held on 26 October at 5pm to determine the transfer proposals.

47. **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

There were no motions on notice.

48. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS TO THE MEETING OR MATTERS TAKEN AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

There were no items of business.

Councillor Evans raised concerns regarding a letter that had come to his attention warning that some gas boilers' heating equipment supplied to public bodies contained gaskets that might fail. The Chief Executive advised that such issues should be raised direct with him and agreed to enquire further into the matter.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

49. **General Questions**

In accordance with paragraph 12 of the Constitution, the following questions were asked of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs covering aspects of their areas of responsibility –

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Smith	Councillor Fry	Tennis courts at West Hoe Park
2	Councillor Smith	Councillor Fry	Covenant at West Hoe Park
3	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Pengelly	Localities working and consultation with Members on boundaries
4	Councillor Wheeler	Councillor Wiggins	Proposed St Budeaux controlled parking.
5	Councillor Purnell	Councillor Monahan	Submission of update on Little Ted Nursery and publicity regarding new procedures to Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board, Corporate Parenting Group and Children & Young People's OSP.
6	Councillor Kerswell	Councillor Wiggins	Parking permit review and deadline for conclusion.
7	Councillor Wheeler	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Localities and recent meeting in the NW locality to which some of the affected ward members had been invited and some had not.
8	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Bowyer	CityBus valuation process and bids involving Mr John Preece.
9	Councillor Evans	Councillor Bowyer	Herald report on CityBus and declaration of interest issue.
10	Councillor Wildy	Councillor Bowyer	Councillor Bowyer's changed ability to comment on CityBus and how the decision on accepted bids was known.
11	Councillor Mrs Nelder	Councillor Jordan	Future of Tothill Library
12	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Bowyer	Method by which CityBus information regarding Mr John Preece's bid reached Councillor Bowyer

50. **Forward Plan**

Following the introduction of the Forward Plan by the Leader, questions were asked of the Leader and Cabinet Members as follows –

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Wildy	Councillor Fry	Reason for inclusion of the Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership succession plan in the Forward Plan and unavailability of document.

	From	To	Subject
2	Councillor Lowry	Councillor Bowyer	The Life Centre project and consultation with the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board / Customers & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel.
3	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Plymouth CityBus Shareholding Limited and probity of process in respect of declarations of interest.
4	Councillor Purnell	Councillor Jordan	PCC's Aquatic Strategy and the need for inclusion on consultee list of the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the Corporate Parenting Group.
5	Councillor Evans	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Plymouth CityBus Shareholding Limited and, if proved to be against probity rules, consequences to Cabinet Member of reporting to the Herald.
6	Councillor Wheeler	Councillor Mrs Pengelly / Councillor Brookshaw	Locality Working and consulting elected Members on boundaries.
7	Councillor Mrs Aspinall	Councillor Jordan / Councillor Monahan	PCC's Aquatics Strategy / Building Schools for the Future Governance and consultation deadline for schools.
8	Councillor Wheeler	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Locality Working and confirmation regarding consulting elected members on boundaries.

51. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.