

City Council

Monday 28 January 2013

PRESENT:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Wright, in the Chair.
Councillor Mrs Nelder, Vice Chair for the meeting.
Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Churchill, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Evans, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Monahan, Murphy, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Ricketts, Dr. Salter, John Smith, Peter Smith, Stark, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Wiggins and Williams.

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Tim Howes (Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance), Judith Shore (Democratic and Member Support Manager), Nicola Kirby (Senior Democratic Support Officer (Cabinet)), Gemma Pearce (Team Leader, Democratic Support) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Support Officer).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Browne, Coker, Sam Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Haydon and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Singh).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 7.09 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.

68. VICE CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In the absence of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Singh), it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Nelder acts as vice chair of the meeting.

69. ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the permission of council, the order of business on the agenda was amended, as set out below in the minutes.

70. WEBCAST OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The Monitoring Officer reported that following potential defamatory statements by councillors about an officer, he had taken the decision not to publish that part of the webcast to protect the officer concerned and the council in relation to any potential legal action. The comments had been investigated and there was no evidence of wrong doing by the officer. A draft protocol on webcasting was presented to council for approval today and referred to in minute 75 below.

71. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting of council held on 3 December 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

72. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the code of conduct from councillors in relation to items under consideration at this meeting –

Name	Item	Interest	Reason
Councillor Churchill	Minute 78 – Council tax support scheme	Disclosable prejudicial	Private sector landlord
Councillors Gordon and Jordan	Minute 78 – Council tax support scheme	Disclosable prejudicial	In receipt of a war pension
Councillors Mrs Bowyer, Bowyer, Churchill, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr Mahony, Ricketts, John Smith, Wigans	Minute 79 – Council tax technical reform	Disclosable prejudicial	Private sector landlord
Councillors Dr Mahony and Dr Salter	Minute 79 – Council tax technical reform	Disclosable prejudicial	Second home owner
Councillor Sam Leaves,	Minute 84 - Amendment to the capital programme: Windsor House co-location with health	Personal	NHS employee of the Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group western locality affected by the move
Councillor Jon Taylor	Minute 84 - Amendment to the capital programme: Windsor House co-location with health	Personal	NHS employee affected by the move
Councillor Wigans	Minute 86 - Business Rates Retention Scheme	Disclosable prejudicial	Commercial Landlord

73. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE BODIES ETC**

The City Council noted the appointment of Councillor Fox as the new alternate director for Careers South West.

74. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor congratulated -

- (a) all the recipients in the New Year's Honours on the recognition of their services as follows –
- paralympics gold medalist Jonathan Fox was awarded an MBE for services to swimming;
 - Angela O'Brien (stage name of Angela Collins), chair of the City of Plymouth Theatre Company was awarded an MBE for services to drama in the south west;
 - Julian Crow, First Great Western's regional manager, west was awarded an MBE for services to the rail industry;
 - Monika Kinley was awarded an OBE, for services to the visual arts;
 - Alan Smith, chairman and managing director of the Plymouth-based company Pipex, was awarded an MBE for services to the manufacturing industry;
 - Lorraine Anne Tucker was awarded a British Empire Medal for voluntary service to the City of Plymouth Children Fund and to the community in Devon;
 - Irene Alice Wills was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the Pisces Swimming Club and to the community in Plymouth;
 - David Rees, an operational analyst at CORDA Consulting was awarded a MBE for services to defence capability;
- (b) the Customer Services Team on their Customer Service Excellence Award; Govmetric Case Study in Excellence Award and the Business Health Network Platinum Award;
- (c) the Library Service on their Customer Service Excellence Award;
- (d) the Legal Services Land Charges Team who had been shortlisted by the National Land Information Service 2013 Excellence Awards for the best performing local land charges service in Great Britain.

Members of staff came forward to be presented with certificates and congratulated by the Lord Mayor.

The Leader referred to –

- (a) the City Deal: he thanked officers and partners who had worked hard across the region to develop the City Deal bid which would include the development and commercialisation of fledgling marine science businesses, the creation of a maritime technology production campus and an international investment and export pilot;
- (b) Plymouth Airport: the Chief Executive and the Leader met with Simon Burns (Transport Minister). He reiterated to Members that the position of the authority remained as stated in council on 24 September 2012. At the meeting with the minister, he had also taken the opportunity to lobby for the addition of the city to the Strategic National Corridor Network; to seek support for more regular and shorter train services between the city and London and to work with the Department of Transport on assessing options and business cases for rail improvements;
- (c) Rail infrastructure: he was seeking to meet with the rail minister (Patrick McCloughlin) on his response to the Leader's letter highlighting the concerns of the city, neighbouring councils and partners on the Local Enterprise Partnership about the fragility of the national road and rail links and the disruption and impact of the recent adverse weather conditions on the local economy. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the options for improvements and in the meantime he would continue to work with neighbouring authorities to identify the economic costs of rail line closures and to develop solutions;
- (d) City of Culture: he updated the council on the bid being developed through and led by the city. He reported that the initial expression of interest would be submitted by the end of February 2013 followed by the initial stage bid by the end of April 2013. If the council was asked to progress a final bid, fully worked plans and ideas would be required by 30 September 2013;
- (e) English Heritage: the Chief Executive and the Leader had met with Baroness Andrews (the Chair of English Heritage) to discuss the city's heritage and how English Heritage could help support the city's bid for City of Culture. They had invited Baroness Andrews to Plymouth to see some of the excellent work to regenerate historic areas.

75. **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

The Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance presented his report on proposed constitutional changes following consideration by the Constitutional Review Group (CRG). With the agreement of the council, each proposal was considered in turn.

Planning Committee Code of Conduct

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved and Councillor Stevens (Chair of the CRG and Planning Committee) seconded the proposal as set out in the written report. Councillor Stevens thanked Councillor Ball for highlighting an issue with the existing code.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Pengelly, the Monitoring Officer advised that the revised code would be implemented as soon as practicable and it was unlikely that it could apply to the meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 31 January 2013.

Agreed to adopt the revised Planning Committee Code of Practice (to be implemented as soon as practicable).

Hospitality Rules

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved and Councillor Stevens (Chair of the CRG) seconded the proposal as set out in the written report.

Agreed to change the hospitality rules in relation to paid for events.

Webcasting Protocol

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved and Councillor Evans (Leader) seconded a revised proposal to recommendation (3) in the written report as follows -

‘Add the following words to recommendation 3:

‘... and to give consideration to making the whole of the webcast of last Council’s meeting publicly available, once all the members of the Conservative Group have personally agreed to indemnify the Council against any legal action resulting from the publication of the whole webcast’

Recommendation 3 would then read:

‘To adopt the webcasting protocol and to give consideration to making the whole of the webcast of last Council’s meeting publicly available, once all the members of the Conservative Group have personally agreed to indemnify the Council against any legal action resulting from the publication of the whole webcast’.

During the debate, the following issues were raised –

- the actions taken on the webcast and the reasons for that action, following the last council meeting;

- the council's commitment for openness and transparency;
- the standard of debate expected from councillors;
- that the matter should be deferred until the council had full details of the investigation (referred to by the Monitoring Officer in minute 70) and was satisfied with the outcome, otherwise the independence of the investigation would be in doubt;

Following questions from councillors, the Monitoring Officer advised that councillors would need to obtain their own legal advice about indemnity insurance and further to his statement in minute 70 above, reported that he would not publish that part of the webcast again as his role was to protect the council.

Councillor Lowry moved and Councillor Rennie seconded that the vote was taken. Following a request from ten councillors for a recorded vote, there voted –

For the motion (37)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Churchill, Damarell, Darcy, P. Davey, Evans, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, James, Jarvis, Lowry, McDonald, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, J. Smith, P. Smith, Stark, Stevens, J. Taylor, K. Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Williams.

Against the motion (12)

Councillors Jordan, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Mrs Nicholson, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Ricketts, Dr Salter and Wiggins.

Abstentions (1)

The Lord Mayor

The following members were absent (7)

Councillor Browne, Coker, S. Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Haydon and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Singh).

The motion was agreed and the vote was taken following summing up by Councillor Peter Smith.

Following a request from ten councillors for a recorded vote on the revised proposals, there voted –

For the motion (26)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Bowie, Casey, Damarell, P. Davey, Evans, Fox, Gordon, Jarvis, Lowry, McDonald, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, J. Smith, P. Smith, Stevens, J. Taylor, K. Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Williams.

Against the motion (23)

Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Churchill, Darcy, K. Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, James, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Mrs Nicholson, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Ricketts, Dr Salter, Stark and Wigens.

Abstentions (1)

The Lord Mayor

The following members were absent (7)

Councillor Browne, Coker, S. Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Haydon and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Singh)

Agreed to adopt the webcasting protocol and to give consideration to making the whole of the webcast of last Council's meeting publicly available, once all the members of the Conservative Group have personally agreed to indemnify the council against any legal action resulting from the publication of the whole webcast.

76. **DISPENSATIONS FOR MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL**

The Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance submitted a written report on dispensations for Members and co-opted members of Plymouth City Council. The decision would enable councillors to vote on council tax matters, including items on this agenda.

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved and Councillor Evans (Leader) seconded a proposal to amend the recommendations in the written report of the Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance, as follows -

Add the following words to recommendation 2:

'The Constitution Review Group meet to consider the different options for granting dispensations and to recommend their preferred option to Council, in the meantime, as an interim measure, it is agreed ...'

Recommendation 2 would then read:

The Constitution Review Group meet to consider the different options for granting dispensations and to recommend their preferred option to Council, in the meantime, as an interim measure, it is agreed:

- (a) that the Monitoring Officer may, but is not required to, consult with the Standards Advisory Group prior to determining an application for dispensation on grounds 4a), 4b) and 4d);

- (b) that the Monitoring Officer would consult Members of the Standards Advisory Group before making a decision on ground 4c) or 4e) as these grounds may involve a value judgement.

Add an additional recommendation

Recommendation 3:

The Council ask the Local Government Association to put pressure on the Department for Communities and Local Government to amend the legislation to provide automatic dispensations as were provided under the previous standards regime.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the proposer of the recommendations (Councillor Smith) had chosen to revise the recommendations that had been circulated with the agenda. He also confirmed that he was content that the amendment would enable the business on the agenda to be determined and that there would be an opportunity in the future to consider options for dispensations.

Agreed that –

- (1) the authority to grant existing dispensations to all Members and co-opted members is delegated to the council's Monitoring Officer;
- (2) the Constitution Review Group meet to consider the different options for granting dispensations and to recommend their preferred option to Council, in the meantime, as an interim measure, it is agreed:
 - (a) that the Monitoring Officer may, but is not required to consult with the Standards Advisory Group prior to determining an application for dispensation on grounds 4a), 4b) and 4d);
 - (b) that the Monitoring Officer would consult Members of the Standards Advisory Group before making a decision on ground 4c) or 4e) as these grounds may involve a value judgment;
- (3) the Council will ask the Local Government Association to put pressure on the Department for Communities and Local Government to amend the legislation to provide automatic dispensations as were provided under the previous standards regime.

77. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions submitted by the public for this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

78. Council Tax Support Scheme

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the recommendations in the written report of the Director for Corporate Services to the City Council on the Council Tax Support Scheme. Cabinet minute 103 and the written report of the Director for Corporate Services to Cabinet also referred.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Penberthy.

Following a request for advice on interests, the Monitoring Officer advised that it was a Member's responsibility to determine whether they had an interest and that it was not practical to provide advice during a meeting.

Following a debate, Councillor Lowry undertook to continue to monitor the implementation and impact of the scheme and report back to council.

Agreed the Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy, the Exceptional Hardship Fund Policy and Vulnerability/Incentivising Work Statement.

(Councillors Churchill, Gordon and Jordan declared interests and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item).

79. Council Tax Technical Reforms

Councillor Evans (Leader) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute 104 on the council tax technical reforms. The written report of the Director for Corporate Services to Cabinet also referred.

Councillor Dr Salter indicated that he wished to move an amendment and having been reminded that he had declared a disclosable prejudicial interest in the item, he withdrew from the meeting.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Peter Smith.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly moved an amendment as follows and asked that, if the amendment was not accepted, the Leader looked at the proposal, as follows –

'To be more generous than the existing Class F exemption 'Left Empty By Deceased Person' giving just six months of exemption after the grant of Probate, which can currently be followed by a Vacant Property (Class C) exemption only if a property is newly built or both unoccupied and unfurnished, in future the Council agrees on compassionate grounds to exempt from Council tax for a period of up to two years properties which are unoccupied due to the recent death of a resident, while the executors of that resident's estate make necessary repairs or alterations to prepare the property for sale or for letting'.

Following an assurance given by the Leader that the proposal would be looked at the next day, Councillor Mrs Pengelly withdrew the amendment.

Agreed to -

- (1) remove the current 10 per cent discount on second homes and charge the full council tax;
- (2) charge 50 per cent council tax for properties undergoing major repair for as long as the property remains in that state up to the maximum period of one year;
- (3) reduce the 100 per cent discount on empty and unfurnished properties from six months to one month;
- (4) charge a 50 per cent premium on homes that have been empty for more than two years, taking the total council tax due to 150 per cent.

(Councillors Mrs Bowyer, Bowyer, Churchill, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr Mahony, Ricketts, Dr Salter, John Smith and Wigans declared interests in the above item and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item).

80. **Council Tax Base Setting**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute 132 on the council tax base setting. The written report of the Director for Corporate Services to Cabinet also referred.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Evans.

Councillor Lowry urged councillors and officers to look at the self service system on the website as greater use would provide a more efficient service.

Agreed the council tax base for 2013/14 tax setting as 66,958 Band D equivalents, which is the tax base after allowing for an estimated collection rate of 97.5 per cent.

81. **Social Fund Replacement**

Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute 128 on the social fund replacement. The written report of the Director for People to Cabinet also referred.

Councillor Penberthy thanked everyone who had responded to the consultation and Councillor Tuffin (Chair of the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel) for the pre decision scrutiny undertaken by that panel.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Tuffin who also thanked members of the scrutiny panel, Steve Meakin of the Citizens Advice Bureau and officers for their hard work.

Agreed –

- (1) to establish a replacement for the Social Fund called the “Emergency and Welfare Fund” (EWF) to support people in extreme financial difficulty;
- (2) that the EWF is based on the following principles. It will -
 - (a) be limited to Plymouth residents only;
 - (b) deliver goods and services from wherever is most appropriate;
 - (c) spend the same amount of funding that the council are handed from government;
 - (d) broadly mirror the current Social Fund eligibility criteria (e.g. those on low income and without access to other forms of income);
 - (e) provide crisis and welfare responses;
 - (f) minimise the spend on administration of the scheme so the council gets as much of the government funding as possible to people in need;
 - (g) provide goods, services and cash;
 - (h) apply limits to the number of awards an individual can access;
- (3) to ask the Customer and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review delivery of the EWF after six months of implementation and make any relevant recommendations. A further review to be undertaken at the end of the first year of implementation with recommendations made to Cabinet for any improvements in year two;
- (4) to delegate authority to the Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development and Director for Corporate Services, to make any changes to the EWF within the first year, which are consistent with the principles agreed, and necessary to ensure effective budget management and / or response to customers’ needs;
- (5) to adopt the service model (referred to in Appendix I to the report) for delivery of the EWF;
- (6) to review, on an on-going basis, the potential for delivering some elements of the EWF via key partners (eg credit unions).

82. **Adoption of North Prospect Area Planning Statement**

Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute I30a on the adoption of the North Prospect Area Planning Statement. Cabinet minute I03 and the written report of the Director for Place to Cabinet also referred.

Councillor Vincent thanked officers, Plymouth Community Homes, ward councillors and the community who had worked together to achieve this outcome.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Evans (Leader).

Agreed to adopt the North Prospect Area Planning Statement as interim planning guidance to be used in consideration of future development proposals in North Prospect.

83. **Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme**

Councillor Evans (Leader) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute 121a on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee revenue estimates and capital programme. Cabinet minute 120 and the written report of the Director for Place to Cabinet also referred.

The council was advised that the proposal would require an increase in toll income to mitigate the risks but that despite recent media reports, the joint committee had not agreed any toll increases to date. Members were continuing to look at options before presenting a report to Cabinet.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

Agreed to approve the revenue and capital budgets for 2013/14, as proposed by the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee and recommended by Cabinet.

84. **Amendment to the Capital Programme - Windsor House Co-location with Health**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the recommendations in Cabinet minute 120a on the proposed amendment to the capital programme arising from the co-location at Windsor House with health. Cabinet minute 120 and the written report of the Director for Corporate Services to Cabinet also referred.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor McDonald.

Following a request by Councillor Bowyer for an assurance that additional parking would be available before or to coincide with the arrival of new staff, Councillor McDonald agreed to provide further information outside of the meeting. She indicated that the issue had been recognised but that it was not a straight swap as some health staff were not essential users. Officers were currently considering the requirements.

Agreed the additional capital resources required to implement co-location at Windsor House with the Western Locality Clinical Commissioning Group and to amend the capital programme accordingly.

(Councillors Sam Leaves and Jon Taylor declared interests in the above item).

85. **Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 - midyear review**

Councillor Wheeler (Chair of the Audit Committee) presented the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 in accordance with minute 44 of the Audit Committee. The written report of the Director for Corporate Services to the Audit Committee also referred.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Lowry and the report was noted.

86. **BUSINESS RATES RETENTION SCHEME**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the recommendations in the written report of the Director for Corporate Services on the business rates retention scheme.

Councillor Jon Taylor seconded the proposals.

Councillor Lowry undertook to add a monitoring paragraph into monthly monitoring reports on business rate collection and to provide further details, including the calculation, to either the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board or the Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel as required.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall indicated that she had asked for Councillor Lowry to attend the Management Board and provide more detail.

Agreed to –

- (1) approve the National Non Domestic Rate one return;
- (2) note the risk and volatility issues together with the opportunities around the rates retention highlighted in this report;
- (3) note the inclusion of Plymouth City Council in the Devon Rates Pool for 2013/14.

(Councillor Wigens having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting)

87. **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

There were no motions on notice for the meeting.

88. **QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

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 Bowyer	Councillor Peter Smith	What action was being taken to engage the public and increase public support for the City of Culture?
	Councillor Smith responded that the announcement had only just been made and the Council would be starting to engage with the public as soon as possible.		
2	Councillor James	Councillor Penberthy	The numbers of rough sleepers were sought in the light of adverse weather conditions and also the support provided to vulnerable people by ways of employment or some sort of training.
	Councillor Penberthy responded that he did not have the figures for the last quarter. In the first quarter, the average number seen was 4.5 people and in the second quarter, three people. During last year there were 20 people and five in the year before. With regard to support, there was a variety of work being undertaken with the homeless communities including the Shekinah Mission and Harbour, through pathways. Before the council could work in a meaningful way with rough sleepers, the priority was to find people beds and hostels. The George Street hostel provided a supportive environment with a key worker attached and the Shekinah Mission had a multi-agency approach. Homelessness was part of the eight year, £10m Big Lottery fund piece of work, led by Hamoaze House on behalf of the city to further improve multiple needs. There was an on-going package of work that the council was continuing to offer A written response would be provided.		
3	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Councillor Peter Smith	Following the removal of the subsidy for Mount Edgcumbe by Cornwall County Council, what would be the impact on the City Council and existing schemes?
	Councillor Smith responded that he was looking at options with the officers and as soon as he had an answer he would contact her. He also undertook to meet with the Plymouth members of the joint committee before the next joint committee meeting.		
4	Councillor Beer	Councillor Evans	The lift in the Theatre Royal car park had been out of order since before Xmas. When would it be reinstated? It had been reported to her and could have an impact on income.

	<p>Councillor Evans asked when Councillor Mrs Beer had reported the fault. He advised that there was adequate parking for blue badge holders on other floors. He asked the officers to respond with the scale of the problem and the plans to ensure that the lift was working properly. A written response would be provided.</p>		
5	Councillor Foster	Councillor Lowry	Was the management structure being reviewed to reduce the budget and maintain frontline services?
	<p>Councillor Lowry responded that a review was being undertaken of all of the management levels and employees.</p>		
6	Councillor Darcy	Councillor Peter Smith	What indicators would determine the success or otherwise of the webcast trial? Were the 191 views, unique figures or did they include those viewing from inside the council and would the success be based solely on the viewing figures?
	<p>Councillor Smith responded that he would provide the figures and that there had been 191 viewers this afternoon. The figures were unique as the council had only one IP address for all those viewing from inside. With regard to the determining factor, the viewing figures were being monitored A written response would be provided.</p>		
7	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Peter Smith	Why had the Council stopped flying the Union Flag from the Civic flag pole outside the Guildhall?
	<p>Councillor Smith responded that he was unaware of the position or any change of policy and advised that the Union Flag was currently flying on the Council House.</p>		
8	Councillor Churchill	Councillor Evans	With the current bad weather, where were the snow wardens promised in the Labour Party manifesto? How many people had volunteered to date?
	<p>Councillor Evans responded that volunteers had been requested at 'Have your say' meetings. When enough volunteers had come forward, a training programme would be put in place. If anyone wished to volunteer, they should contact Councillors Coker or Evans and they would pass on the details to the appropriate person. He was not aware of the number of volunteers to date.</p>		

9	Councillor Dr Mahony	Councillor McDonald	In order to mitigate the cost of Frank Cowl House, would she consider the possibility of using it for respite care? This would also provide benefits for the remaining resident of Frank Cowl House and would be more economical, particularly if some funding was provided.
<p>Councillor McDonald responded that she could not discuss details about individual residents. Running costs had been reduced on Frank Cowl House and put into front line services. The council's policy that no-one would be forced to move out was reiterated. She was making every effort with regard to reablement prevention.</p> <p>She also confirmed that it was the council's policy to enable people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.</p>			
10	Councillor Martin Leaves	Councillor Evans	Which council department issued sandbags because when properties were flooded the residents could not obtain any bags?
<p>Councillor Evans responded that he was not sure if it was Councillor Coker's responsibility but would find out and let him know. Councillor Vincent had spent time with agencies with regard to flooding however there had been a 22 per cent cut in flood defence funding.</p> <p>A written response would be provided.</p>			
11	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Lowry	He had heard comments from Councillor Evans about the council wanting to spend more money, why was a larger council tax increase not being proposed? Council had the ability to have a public debate and to use existing powers to increase the council tax further.
<p>Councillor Lowry responded that the council had a budget deficit. If the Council raised the council tax by two per cent it would raise £2m. The deficit was £18m. He was proposing a two per cent increase.</p> <p>Councillor Lowry was prepared to have the debate about a higher rate but considered that two per cent was appropriate. If councillors wished to have a higher increase and contacted him, he would be happy to have discussions.</p>			

12	Councillor Monahan	Councillor McDonald	With the well-publicised Trades' Union opposition to changes to adult social care, how did she overcome and negate the comment before the Cabinet meeting calling it 'mission impossible'? Did she think that the consultation would be successful?
	Councillor McDonald responded that she had spoken with the Trades' Union members outside the Council House and said that, in respect of Adult Social Care, the council was being asked to accomplish 'mission impossible' because it was being expected to do more for less. Through the officers, she was currently consulting, negotiating and discussing concerns with the unions. (She was a member of the GMB) The use of the whistle blowing legislation was also being encouraged. The consultation would be successful and officers were looking at ways to ensure the use of the best organisations to provide services.		
13	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Vincent	Why was it acceptable to use a potentially offensive acronym with negative connotations to promote the Plymouth Plan?
	Councillor Vincent responded that he was working with young people and they used this sort of phrase		
14	Councillor Bowyer	Councillor Peter Smith	When looking at the figures on webcasting please could he be advised of the current yearly expenditure?
	Councillor Smith responded that every £500 spent was published on the website. A written response would be provided.		

Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.

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