

# City Council

Monday 22 July 2013

## PRESENT:

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Churchill, Vice Chair in the Chair.  
Councillor K. Foster, Vice Chair for the meeting.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Coker, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Evans, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, Haydon, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Monahan, Morris, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, Ricketts, Dr. Salter, John Smith, Peter Smith, Stark, Stevens, Singh, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Wiggins, Williams and Wright.

Also in attendance: Carole Burgoyne (Director for People), Tim Howes (Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance), Judith Shore (Democratic and Member Support Manager), Nicola Kirby (Democratic Support Officer).

Apologies for absence: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Mrs Pengelly), Councillor Martin Leaves and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 7.35 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.*

## 22. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor took the Chair.

Agreed that Councillor Foster is appointed as Vice Chair for this meeting.

## 23. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 10 June 2013 subject to an amendment in relation to question no 15 which was asked by Councillor Mrs Lynda Bowyer and not Councillor Ian Bowyer.

24. **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 –

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Councillor Mrs Aspinall	Minute 35 – Opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail	Private	Her daughter and daughter’s partner are employees of the Royal Mail.
Councillor Mrs Aspinall	Minute 36 – Happy birthday NHS	Private	She has a NHS pension.
Councillor Damerall	Minute 24 - Appointment to committees, outside bodies etc	Disclosable pecuniary interest	Employee of Plymouth Community Homes.
Councillor Gordon	Minute 32 – Fire cover in Plymouth	Private	He is vice-chair of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor Jordan	Minute 35 – Opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail	Disclosable pecuniary interest	His wife is employed by the Royal Mail and he is a member of the Communication Workers’ Union.
Councillor Sam Leaves	Minute 35 – Opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail	Disclosable pecuniary interest	Her husband has a Royal Mail pension.
Councillor Sam Leaves	Minute 36 – Happy birthday NHS	Private	She is a NHS employee.
Councillor Dr Mahony	Minute 36 – Happy birthday NHS	Private	He has a NHS pension.
Councillor McDonald	Minute 36 – Happy birthday NHS	Private	She has a NHS pension.
Councillor John Smith	Minute 32 – Fire cover in Plymouth	Private	He is a member of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Jon Taylor	Minute 36 – Happy birthday NHS	Private	He is a NHS employee.
Councillor Wheeler	Minute 30 – Neighbourhood Planning: Neighbourhood Forums and Areas	Private	He is a member of a local group in Barne Barton referred to in the report.

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

The report of the Director for Corporate Services was submitted.

The City Council noted –

- (a) that the election of Councillor Morris to the City Council, following a by-election at the Southway Ward, had had very little impact on the political balance of committees, which would remain the same;
- (b) the following changes notified to the Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance –

<b>Committee etc</b>	<b>Membership</b>
Licensing Committee	Councillor Morris to replace Councillor Mrs Nelder
Working Plymouth Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Morris to replace Councillor Fox
Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee	Councillor Wright to replace Councillor Mrs Nelder

Agreed the following appointments –

	<b>Committees and Other Bodies</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Appointments 2013/14</b>
(a)	Plymouth Community Homes	Two vacancies arising from resignations of former Councillor Browne and Councillor Williams	Cllr Monahan Cllr Morris
(b)	Plymouth Energy Community Limited	One councillor vacancy	Cllr Penberthy

(Councillor Damarell declared a private interest in respect of item (a) above).

26. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Deputy Lord Mayor –**

- (a) welcomed Councillor Morris to this his first meeting of the City Council since his election as a representative of the Southway Ward;
- (b) congratulated the Democratic Support Services Team on their achievement in reaching the finals of the MJ Award for Excellence in Democratic Services.

**Councillor Evans (Council Leader)** reported that, although the outcome of the city of culture bid had been disappointing, he was intending to harness the enthusiasm generated and bring forward plans on individual initiatives.

**Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)** announced that -

- (a) the length of time to complete legal care proceedings in Plymouth had been reduced from 56 to 26 weeks and the council had moved to second place in performance tables for England and Wales;
- (b) the council had been successful in bidding for funds from the Department for Education for three primary schools: Widewell Primary; Woodford Primary and Holy Cross Primary Schools and for a new school in Derriford.

**Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development)** announced that with regard to pay day loan companies, the ICT department had taken action to ensure that there was no access to their websites in community sites. J C Decaux had agreed to ensure that bus stops did not carry their advertisements and he was working with Plymouth City Centre Company. Agreement had also been reached to convert a shop in Frankfort Gate for credit unions.

**Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Transport)** announced that the Heart of the South West LEP had put forward transport schemes following the government announcement of indicative funding of £40.6m. The LEP had now been advised that it would receive only £20.1m which was very disappointing.

27. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

Four questions had been received from members of the public in relation to matters which, in the opinion of the Lord Mayor, were relevant to the business of the meeting in accordance with paragraph 10 of the constitution.

Mr Williams (Q3) attended the meeting and in the absence of Councillor Lowry, Councillor Penberthy responded as set out below -

<b>Question No</b>	<b>Question By</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Q3/13-14	Mr Williams	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)	Code of Conduct for Bailiffs
<p>Does the authority have an extant code of conduct for its bailiffs? If so, will this be published in a leaflet to the general public, as it did in the days of the Community Charge? If not, will it devise such a code of conduct?</p>			
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>As part of the bailiff contract process there is a specification document which details the code of conduct, or operational guidelines that we expect our provider to adhere to.</p> <p>This will not be published in a leaflet to the general public but it is intended to publish the details on the Council's website in due course.</p> <p>Some of the detail contained within the contract is:</p> <p>Bailiffs will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carry full and proper photographic identification;</li> <li>• adopt a firm but polite attitude;</li> <li>• introduce himself or herself, establish the identity of persons present and explain the purpose of the visit and powers of the Bailiff;</li> <li>• Not make any attempt to levy or remove goods without first consulting with Plymouth City Council where it is evident that a person is mentally impaired, frail, disabled, confused, ill, or living off limited income;</li> <li>• not enter premises if it appears that the only persons present are young people under the age of 18;</li> <li>• seek guidance from the Council before continuing action where English is not understood;</li> <li>• only enter by lawful means;</li> <li>• provide the required copies of the relevant rating regulation as appropriate where distraint takes place;</li> <li>• Exercise due care to avoid any unnecessary damage to goods being removed.</li> </ul>			

In the absence of the questioner for Q4, a written response would be sent to Mr Sharpe as set out below -

<b>Question No</b>	<b>Question By</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Q4 13/14	Mr Sharpe	Councillor Smith (Deputy Leader)	Plymstock swimming pool
<p>Please can Plymstock Residents have an update regarding a public swimming pool in Plymstock, and can also a consultation day be arranged on the subject as we appear to be no nearer having one than twenty years ago?</p>			
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>There is no update on the situation with Plymstock Pool other than previously advised in previous answers concerning Sherford. As stated in earlier replies, consultation on Sherford has occurred on several occasions and therefore a consultation day is not necessary.</p> <p>The local planning policy document for this area clearly sets out the need for Sherford to provide a Sports Hub north of Elburton incorporating a swimming pool and, as advised previously, the policy document was the subject of extensive public consultations in 2006. Also, as advised previously, the Planning Committee's decision on the planning application in 2012 was made following consideration of public opinion and following extensive public consultations.</p> <p>The required S106 has been drafted and discussed between the lawyers of PCC, SHDC and DCC and, I understand that our lawyers can see no reason why it cannot be signed shortly. The planning permission can then be issued to facilitate the commencement of development during this financial year. The S106 would ensure (amongst other things) that there would be the phased delivery of the sports centre and that this would incorporate a 4 lane heated 25m swimming pool in phase 1 (years 1-3).</p>			

Mr Taylor Wickenden (Q5) attended the meeting and in the absence of Councillor Lowry, Councillor Penberthy responded as set out below -

<b>Question No</b>	<b>Question By</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Q5 13/14	Mr Taylor-Wickenden	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet member for finance)	£60 court charge
<p>Why would the Labour Council have the nerve to add a £60 charge upon already indebted households who are being brought to court because of the Bedroom tax and council tax rises and how would this affect Labour's child poverty targets?</p>			

**Response:**

Due to the Government's changes as part of the Welfare Reform, the Council has worked very closely with partners to engage with the people of Plymouth who are affected. We have worked with Social Landlords to find ways to support tenants that are affected by the 'bedroom tax' and have been proactive in working with individuals, and families, to help manage their finances; offering advice about unclaimed benefits and discounts and exemptions as well as offering the 12 monthly payment option and weekly instalments.

However, despite this support, we are still aware that inevitably more people will fall into debt and therefore are subjected to recovery action. As with anyone who defaults on a payment, our recovery action includes issuing reminders. As a last resort, if the payment remains outstanding we do issue a court summons and obtain a Liability Order. Even at this stage we work with our customers to help support with them offering alternatives ways to pay the debt, taking into account their individual circumstances.

The £60 summons cost represents the administrative costs incurred by the Council to get an account to that stage of recovery action.

Court Costs for Council Tax debts are reviewed each year and the decision was made to not increase costs during 2013/14, taking into account the financial impact of the Welfare Reform on council tax payers.

The austerity cuts at a national level are also impacting local government. We are being forced to take financial sums out of our spend while endeavouring to ensure that this doesn't affect our most vulnerable households.

While at a local level we are working hard to reduce our child poverty levels, it appears that current government policy is making this difficult for us to achieve.

Mr O Hara (Q6) attended the meeting and Councillor Vincent responded as set out below -

<b>Question No</b>	<b>Question By</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Q6 13/14	Mr O'Hara	Councillor Vincent (Cabinet member for Environment)	the city's nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube results for 2012

With operations at MVV's new incinerator impending and the associated HGV traffic increase, comprehensive recording of local 'background' AQ data is crucial. Data from the Weston Mill Drive location samplers, near the primary school, are particularly important. When will PCC publish the city's nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube results for 2012?

**Response:**

Monitoring data is presented in an annual progress report to DEFRA. Once the report has been accepted by DEFRA it is made available to the public and uploaded to the Councils website. It is anticipated that this information will be updated in the next few months.

However, a spread sheet containing the full set of monitoring results across the city will be sent to Mr O'Hara by email.

For immediate reference, the 2012 annual nitrogen dioxide results for the monitoring at 3 Weston Mill Drive is 31.43 micrograms per metre cubed.

The National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide is 40 micrograms per metre cubed.

28. **CORPORATE PLAN 2013/14 - 2016/17**

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) presented the Cabinet recommendation for approval and Councillor Peter Smith seconded the proposal (Cabinet minute 15 refers).

During the debate, the lack of information on how the plan would be funded was raised and councillors were advised that the funding arrangements would be set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan which would be presented in due course.

Concerns were also expressed about the lack of consultation on the change of arrangements for convening councillors for prayers prior to the council meeting. Councillor Stevens (Chair of the Constitutional Review Group), offered to meet with any councillors who had concerns, prior to the meeting of the Constitutional Review Group next week.

Agreed that the Council's Corporate Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17 is adopted as submitted.

29. **ANNUAL REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2012/13**

Councillor Wheeler (Chair of the Audit Committee) presented the Annual Report on Treasury Management Activities 2012-13 for noting as required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice (Audit Committee minute 15 referred).

Councillor Lowry seconded the proposal.

The Annual Report on Treasury Management Activities 2012-13 was noted.



30. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS AND AREAS**

The report of the Directors for Corporate Services and Place was submitted on Neighbourhood Planning: Neighbourhood Forums and Areas and Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) moved the recommendation in the written report for approval.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development) who indicated that the responsibility had been delegated to local authorities but had not been funded in full.

Agreed to grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Planning Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Cooperatives and Community Development, to publicise applications for Neighbourhood Forums and Areas, to consider representations and to determine the applications.

(Councillor Wheeler declared a private interest in respect of the above item).

31. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVING WAGE AT PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL**

The Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance introduced the report of the Director for Corporate Services on the implementation of the living wage at Plymouth City Council.

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved the recommendation in the written report, amended as follows –

‘to adopt the principles of the Living Wage and its implementation.’

Councillor Kate Taylor seconded the proposal.

Agreed to adopt the principles of the Living Wage and its implementation.

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

The following motions had been received from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 14 of the Constitution.

32. **Fire Cover in Plymouth**

Councillor Evans moved and Councillor Fry seconded the following motion -

‘Council believes that the proposals by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority to cut fire cover in the city are unacceptable. The suggestion by Councillor Healey that Plymouth taxpayers pay twice to maintain current levels of service must be resisted.’

During the debate the issues raised included -

- (a) the decision was made by the fire and rescue authority despite strong evidence and alternatives put forward by the council;
- (b) the plans did not take account of plans for growth or vulnerable citizens;
- (c) there would be longer response times to domestic and major incidents;
- (d) there had not been a meaningful consultation process;
- (e) the plan had been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and concerns had been conveyed to the fire and rescue authority;
- (f) the response by Councillor Mark Healey (Chair of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority) was not acceptable and it was noted that he had not attended any of the consultation events in the city;
- (g) the council was willing to work with the fire and rescue authority to achieve mutually acceptable arrangements;
- (h) the fire and rescue authority had made no attempt to remodel itself;
- (i) the fire and rescue authority would be considering a proposal on 4 September 2013 to establish an integrated planning group for the proposals relating to Plymouth.
- (j) the government had reintroduced a fund for authorities to bid for to reduce the planned cut from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Following a vote, the motion was agreed as submitted.

(Councillors Gordon and John Smith declared private interests in respect of the above item).

### 33. **UK Strategic Transport Corridor**

Councillor Evans moved and Councillor Peter Smith seconded the following motion-

‘Council believes Plymouth should be on the UK Strategic Transport Corridor and will campaign to this end.’

During the debate the issues raised included -

- (a) the city was not on the UK Strategic Transport Corridor even though the city had a university, naval base and was a strategic port with cross channel ferries;

- (b) if the city was part of the network, there would be greater opportunities to improve rail and road connectivity and a higher priority given in the allocation of the scarce local transport monies;
- (c) it was vital for growth, business confidence, jobs and tourism.

Following a vote, the motion was agreed as submitted.

34. **Camels Head Waste Water Treatment Works**

Councillor Evans moved and Councillor Coker seconded the following motion -

'The Council is extremely concerned about the recurrence of odour issues at the Camels Head Waste Water Treatment Works.

We welcome the repairs to the screening system that commenced last week and the planned for investment of £4M to replace the old tanks with modern ones in 2015 and urge SWW to ensure that this investment is made at the very start of their 2015 -20 investment programme.

Council officers will work with SWW to deliver these improvements but as a city council we will be prepared to use our legal powers to resolve any odour issues affecting the local community both now and until a permanent modern solution is provided.'

During the debate the issues raised included -

- (a) whilst the planned investment was welcomed, the delay in implementation remained a concern and South West Water was urged to bring the scheme forward;
- (b) shareholders should write and express their concerns;
- (c) residents in Turnchapel, experienced similar problems. Copies of any correspondence between Councillor Michael Leaves as a former Cabinet Member and South West Water were requested by the Council Leader;
- (d) the council should investigate what action could be taken against the smell as a statutory nuisance.

Following a vote, the motion was agreed as submitted.

35. **Opposition to the Process of Privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail**

Councillor Stevens moved and Councillor Jon Taylor seconded the following motion-

'Plymouth City Council wishes to place on record its opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail and the threat to the 'six day, one price goes anywhere' delivery. These proposals will lead to higher prices and a worse service for Plymouth residents.

Unjustified closures of Post Offices will have a detrimental impact on the local economy and result in the loss of true community facilities.

Council officers will convey these views to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills seeking assurances that services in Plymouth will be protected and request Plymouth's Members of Parliament to oppose the sell-off of Royal Mail.'

During the debate, the issues raised included -

- (a) the removal of freepost for the armed forces;
- (b) the perceived benefits of exposing the service to competition;
- (c) that Royal Mail was a profitable service;
- (d) the removal of the control on prices.

Following a vote, the motion was agreed as submitted.

(Councillor Jordan and Sam Leaves withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item).

(Councillor Mrs Aspinall declared a private interest in respect of the above item).

36. **Happy Birthday NHS**

Councillor Philippa Davey moved and Councillor Peter Smith seconded the following motion as they were proud of the NHS which provided free services for everyone and treatment according to clinical need.

'This council wishes to offer its congratulations to the NHS on celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.'

In accordance with the Rules of Debate (paragraph 4.2) in the Constitution, the council approved an extension of time for Councillor Davey to introduce the motion.

Councillor McDonald moved the following amendment –

*‘This council wishes to offer its congratulations to the NHS on celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and agrees a vote of no confidence in the Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP.’*

The Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance expressed concern that the amendment was not relevant to the original motion and the council agreed to adjourn the meeting to discuss the position.

Following the adjournment, Councillor McDonald withdrew her amendment and moved a further amendment to be added after the word ‘birthday’ as follows -

*‘and as long as the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP is Secretary of State for Health we are fearful it won’t celebrate any more.’*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Tuffin.

During the debate, the issues raised included –

- (a) that openness and transparency were essential but that a dedicated helpline for whistle blowers had been scrapped;
- (b) the recent announcements of failing trusts;
- (c) the need for change and modernisation in the NHS;
- (d) there was a need to guard against those wishing to dismantle the service;
- (e) the need to address health inequalities.

Following a vote, the amendment was agreed.

Following summing up by Councillor Philippa Davey, the substantive motion, as amended, was put to the vote and agreed.

(Councillor Sam Leaves withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above item).  
(Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Dr Mahony, McDonald and Jon Taylor declared personal interests in the above item).

37. **Supporting the Financial Transaction Tax**

Councillor Williams moved and Councillor Penberthy seconded the following motion -

**‘Council notes that:**

- Local government has seen massive real term cuts in central grant funding under the Coalition over the last few years. The June 2013 Comprehensive Spending Review places further extreme pressure on public sector budgets for the foreseeable future;
- Many of these cuts have had a direct detrimental impact on the city’s most vulnerable and needy residents. For example, the introduction of a local Council Tax Support Scheme, with less funding, providing less benefit to those people who are struggling to pay their daily living expenses;
- There are better, and fairer, ways of generating central government revenue that will ease the need to squeeze local government to the point of crippling front line services and vital support to our citizens;
- Extending the current Financial Transaction Tax, (FTT), on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year;
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives estimated to raise £30bn a year.

**Council believes that:**

- Revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010 and that;
- Local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits;

### **Council motion:**

This council notes the suffering forced upon local residents as a result of this Coalition government's cuts programme and asserts that there is an alternative to its ideologically driven attack on public services – namely the levy of a financial transaction tax on the speculative activities that have accelerated the recent enrichment of the few to the detriment of the many. The council therefore calls upon Government to enact the FTT and use the revenues from this measure to reverse on-going shrinkage in central grants to our council and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to this effect.'

During the debate, the issues raised included -

- (a) that an agreed international approach was required, so that there was not a negative impact on those countries proceeding individually;
- (b) that in France, the expectations on yield had not been met and pension funds would be seriously affected;
- (c) a scheme could be designed so that payment of the tax was difficult to avoid and automated systems would make it easy to collect.

Following a request from ten councillors for a recorded vote, there voted –

For the motion (30)

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

Against the motion (19)

*Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Drean, Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, James, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Ricketts and Stark.*

Abstentions (1)

*Deputy Lord Mayor (Chair)*

The following members were absent (7)

*Councillors Mrs Dolan, Haydon, Martin Leaves, Murphy, Mrs Pengelly (Lord Mayor), Dr Salter and Wiggins.*

The motion was agreed for the reasons stated, as follows –

‘The council therefore calls upon Government to enact the FTT and use the revenues from this measure to reverse on-going shrinkage in central grants to our council and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to this effect.’

Following the decision, Councillor Evans (Council Leader) asked the Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance to provide him with a written note on the implications of a councillor speaking on an item where they had a disclosable pecuniary interest.

38. **DESIGNATION OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER**

The Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance introduced the report of the Director for Corporate Services on the designation of the Section 151 Officer.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) proposed and Councillor Bowyer seconded the recommendations.

Agreed that Malcolm Coe, the Assistant Director for Finance, Efficiencies, Technology and Assets is designated as the council’s officer responsible for the administration of its financial affairs in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, with effect from 13 August 2013.

39. **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 -

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Councillor Ball	Councillor Coker	Parking at Devil’s Point was difficult as spaces were being used by workers at Royal William Yard and Cllr Coker was asked what action was being taken.
	Councillor Coker responded that officers were working with the Royal William Yard and he was hoping to sign off a proposal in the next month.		
2	Councillor Stark	Councillor Evans	He congratulated Cllr Evans on the success of the recent city of culture open day and proposed that the city should be an English City of Culture as an independent venture.
	Councillor Evans responded that he had not heard the term but that the city had a successful track record in new ventures.		



3	Councillor Bowyer	Councillor Lowry	An assurance was sought that future tenders would reflect the living wage principle and Cllr Lowry was asked when the decision would be effective from.
	Councillor Lowry responded that in principle yes, tenders would reflect that the council would pay a living wage and they would work with partners. Officers were also looking at how it could be applied to commercial tenders. The decision would be effective from the date of the meeting for City Council employees and a paper would be submitted on procurement arrangements.		
4	Councillor Drean	Councillor Coker	Was the council receiving revenues for lorries and other vehicles parking overnight at Bretonside Bus Station?
	Councillor Coker responded that some revenue was being received but that there were concerns about vehicles arriving after staff left and leaving early in the morning. Officers were looking at ways and costs of addressing the issue.		
5	Councillor Ball	Councillor Coker	An assurance was sought that the council would not cut school crossing patrols.
	Councillor Coker responded that there had been no changes since 2009 and although it was not a statutory requirement, the council would continue to support them.		
6	Councillor Stark	Councillor Vincent	How many public clocks were his department responsible for? In particular he referred to Derry's Clock where minute hands were missing.
	A written response would be provided on the number of clocks and Cllr Vincent responded that Derry's Clock was currently being refurbished.		
7	Councillor James	Councillor McDonald	Were there any protocols in place between agencies to deal with people with mental health disorders?
	Councillor McDonald responded that changes had taken place and in terms of care, the Glenbourne Unit had made some beds available. At present there was not a great deal of information being shared between agencies but in future and as part of commissioning, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment would expect information sharing, including protocols. Any further information would be sent to Councillor James.		
8	Councillor Stark	Councillor Williams	The Fostering and Adoption Panels required two rooms for their meetings and an assurance was sought that these would be made available. Councillor Williams was also asked whether it was fair that 60 per cent of rooms in the Council House were devoted to the Labour Group?

	Councillor Williams responded that she would raise the issue and ensure that two rooms were available for the panel meetings. The designation of accommodation generally was the responsibility of asset management.
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*Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.*

During consideration of the above item, a motion was moved, seconded and agreed to suspend Council Procedure Rule 10.1 and continue the meeting beyond 7.30pm.