

City Council

Monday 16 September 2013

PRESENT:

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Mrs Pengelly, in the Chair.

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Churchill, Vice Chair.

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

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), David Shepperd (Head of Legal Services) Judith Shore (Democratic and Member Support Manager) and Nicola Kirby (Democratic support Officer).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Ball, Martin Leaves and Sam Leaves and Tim Howes (Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance).

The meeting started at 2pm and finished at 6.20pm.

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.

40. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 22 July 2013.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from councillors, in accordance with the code of conduct, in relation to items under consideration at this meeting.

42. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, OUTSIDE BODIES ETC

The report of the Interim Director for Corporate Services was submitted.

The City Council noted the following changes notified to the Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance –

Committee	Membership
Ambitious Plymouth Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Co-operative Scrutiny Board	Councillor Monahan to replace Councillor Sam Leaves as Vice Chair of the Panel and member of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board

Agreed the following appointments –

	Committees and Other Bodies	Membership	Appointments 2013/14
(a)	Admissions Forum (Schools)	One vacancy arising from resignation of Councillor Sam Leaves.	Councillor Monahan
(b)	Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	One vacancy arising from resignation of Councillor Martin Leaves.	Councillor Darcy
(c)	Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education	One vacancy arising from resignation of Councillor Ricketts.	Councillor Dr Mahony

43. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor –

- (a) reported that the Special Olympics (for people with special needs) were held in Bath and Bristol this year. For the first time Plymouth was represented by 30 athletes who achieved 13 medals including four gold medals. The Lord Mayor congratulated them all for being true ambassadors for the City of Plymouth;
- (b) announced that the Plymouth Life Centre, had been awarded a number of high profile awards -
 - ‘Commercial Project of the Year with a value over £3million’ at the Michelmores / Western Morning News Property Awards 2013;
 - the title of ‘Best Community Building’ at the 2013 Local Authority Building Control (LABC), Building Excellence Awards South West;

- a nomination for a LABC national award, again in the category of 'Best Community Building', the winners to be announced in November 2013;
- sports and leisure facility 'Major Project of the Year' at the Institute of Civil Engineers South West awards ceremony.

The Lord Mayor presented the awards to Tony Hopwood (former Project Manager), Chris Randall (Strategic Finance Manager), Alwyn Thomas (Senior Commercial Lawyer) and Des Heath (Building Control Team Leader) who accepted them on behalf of all those who contributed towards the project.

- (c) announced that Customer Services had for the fourth consecutive year been awarded the nationally recognised Customer Service Excellence Award with improved results. The award demonstrated that the service continued to put the customer at the centre of what they do by ensuring continuous improvement across all the areas measured.

The Lord Mayor presented the certificate to Lynne Reed (service manager), Claire Edwards (team leader), Wayne Hepburn, Loretta Tucker and Gavin O'Riley (Customer Advisors) who accepted it on behalf of all those in customer services who were to be congratulated on their achievement.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) -

- (d) reported that, as a result of major cuts in transport funding and in spite of a commitment by government to address under investment, the gap in spending between the south west and London and the UK as a whole, continued to increase. He had raised the issue at the Board of the LEP and it was agreed to work collectively at board level to make representations to the government using all available channels;
- (e) read a letter he had sent to the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin (Secretary of State for Transport), which raised concerns with regard to the short term extension of the Great Western Rail Franchise which would now not deliver urgently needed improvements. The poor and intermittent wi-fi connectivity and the lack of an early morning train from London to Plymouth were identified and he had asked for government assistance in the delivery of the improvements within the interim franchise arrangements.

Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) announced that the City Council's Education Catering Service was one of three finalists for the second year running for Local Authority Caterer of the Year at the EDU Catering Excellence Awards 2013. The announcement of the winner would be made on 14 October 2013. She praised the Catering Team on their achievement with particular thanks to Brad Pearce (Education and Catering Manager) particularly for his work with small schools.

44. **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 (Q8) attended the meeting and Councillor Lowry responded as set out below -

Question No	Question By	Cabinet Member	Subject
Q8/13-14	Mr J Williams	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader)	Liability Order Court Summons
<p>Please breakdown the Authority's costs for summoning a Council Tax payer to a Liability Order Court hearing between: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Court charges 2. Printing 3. Postage 4. Staff salaries 5. Other costs. <p>What is the Authority's reaction to the Parliamentary Answer by Bridget Prentice in 2009 that the cost of issuing a liability order was £3?</p>			
<p>Response:</p> <p>The £3 charge referred to by Bridget Prentice relates to the cost levied to local authorities by the court for the issue of a Liability Order. This is just one element of cost of a process that involves a lot of staff time and resource over several months.</p> <p>We do not break down our costs to the level of detail as requested in this question however, we can confirm that the biggest element of this cost is staff time.</p>			

Other than the standard issuing of bills, reminders and final notices, significant staff time is spent in preparing the evidence required for liability orders. Staff resource also has to be present in court to manage legal and customer queries on the day. Post court, further work is needed to finalise the process and request attachments to benefits or earnings.

Liability Orders are a tool of last resort for the council. We continue to prioritise and focus on proactively working with our residents to better manage their finances and ensure that individuals access all of the benefits to which they are entitled to.

PCC benchmarks against the CIPFA Group of 80 local authority members which demonstrates that our costs are reasonable, being lower than average. Our liability order costs of £83 compares to the average of £88 (CIPFA group average for 2012/13)

I entirely appreciate the nature of this question, and am equally mindful that increasing cost unnecessarily goes against our principles as a caring council, therefore I can assure the gentleman that I shall look further into this matter to ensure our costs are kept to a minimum and will personally feedback my findings.

In the absence of Mr Gomery (Q9), a written response would be sent to him as set out below -

Question No	Question By	Cabinet Member	Subject
Q9/13-14	Mr S Gomery	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Communities) Councillor Williams (Children and Young People)	Impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme on families
The Joseph Rowntree Trust, describes Plymouth's Council tax reduction scheme as among the harshest in the country in its impact on people on the lowest incomes. This includes thousands of families with children. How does PCC labour group justify such a charge on poor families given its 'Child Poverty Strategy'?			

Response:

The Government cut funding for Council Tax benefits and passed responsibility on to local councils to introduce their own local schemes from 1 April 2013.

Plymouth City Council, like many other councils across the country, introduced a scheme within the limited funding provided by government. We developed the scheme in partnership with several councils across the South West region.

For Plymouth, the reduction in Council Tax benefit funding in 2013/14 was circa £2.6m. Clearly, to address this level of reduction, we would have to ask more people to pay a larger proportion of their council tax bills.

More affluent, rural councils with a greater number of higher value properties, were able to exercise flexibility in levying the funding shortfall more towards those residents who are better able to pay. Unfortunately, for councils like Plymouth, with a higher proportion of Band A and B properties, the only way we could address a £2.6m cut was to apply less benefits across a wider number of households.

Our scheme is not untypical for an urban unitary council with a high dependency on the benefit state.

The implications of introducing a local Council Tax Support scheme, alongside other welfare reform changes such as implementation of the 'bedroom tax', has placed a significant burden on many individuals and families across the city. We remain committed to addressing child poverty and are proactively working with vulnerable families to provide advice and support. For example, we have been successful in helping many families to access funding and claim additional benefits to which they are entitled to.

Moving forward, we will continue to lobby the government for a fairer financial settlement. For example, recommending that the government imposes greater taxes on stocks and shares in order to put more money back into allocating Council Tax benefits to those most in need.

Mr Aldred (Q10) attended the meeting and Councillor Penberthy responded as set out below -

Question No	Question By	Cabinet Member	Subject
Q10 / 13-14	Mr R Aldred	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Communities) Councillor Evans (Council Leader)	Housing benefit: use of reserves
<p>As Ed Miliband has said that if a Labour Government comes into power after the 2015 general election it will scrap the 'Bedroom Tax', will this Labour-led council use their reserves to make up the shortfall in housing benefit to protect Plymothians from the increased poverty they currently face?</p>			
<p>Response:</p> <p>Welfare reforms have cut the amount of benefit that people can get if they are deemed to have a spare bedroom in their council or housing association home. This measure has been applied to all housing benefit claimants of working age from 1 April 2013.</p> <p>The power to reduce housing benefit in this way is contained in the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and is commonly referred to as the bedroom tax, size criteria or under-occupation penalty.</p> <p>This is national legislation for which, unfortunately, the council has no discretion over. As such, we are not able to use reserves to protect the impact on Plymothians. However, we will continue to lobby government on the effect that welfare reform cuts are having on the most vulnerable residents in our city – for example, recommending that the government imposes greater taxes on stocks and shares in order to put more money back into allocating Council Tax benefits to those most in need.</p> <p>We have also set up a welfare team to provide advice and support to individuals and families who are struggling with their finances as a result of welfare reform and have proactively helped many residents gain access to more funding and benefits, to which they are entitled, through this team.</p>			

Mr Buckley attended the meeting and Councillor Lowry responded as set out below –

Question No	Question By	Cabinet Member	
Q11/ 13-14	Mr N Buckley	Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader)	Liability Order costs
<p>Under what statutory provision is the City Council imposing £85.00 costs on each Liability Order for non-payment of Council tax benefit? Plymouth City Council cannot impose financial penalties for non-payment of Council tax benefit.</p>			
<p>Response:</p> <p>Plymouth City Council continues to invest significant time and resource into helping individuals and families who are struggling to meet their financial obligations. We use a number of proactive measures for collecting income due to us such as helping people maximise their benefit entitlement, arranging flexible payment plans based on individual circumstances and providing practical support and advice through a dedicated welfare support team.</p> <p>However, in a minority of cases, there is a need to pursue liability orders in relation to income that is due to us. The legislation that enables us to impose costs for issue of Liability Order for non-payment of Council Tax is Regulation 34(7) of The Council Tax (admin and enforcement) regulations 1992.</p> <p>This regulation enables the council to recover costs reasonably incurred in obtaining the order.</p>			

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET AND THE CO-OPERATIVE SCRUTINY BOARD

45. **Finance: New Capital Schemes**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the Cabinet recommendation on a proposal to add two new schemes to the capital programme. (Cabinet minute 24 referred).

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Transport) seconded the proposals.

Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) also reported on phase IV of the vehicle and plant replacement programme.

Agreed that two new schemes are added to the capital programme totalling £3.3m as follows –

- Marjon link road to Derriford Hospital £1.5m
- Vehicle and plant replacement phase IV £1.8m

46. **Urban Enterprise: New Enterprise Units at Ocean Studios**

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) presented the Cabinet recommendation on the new Enterprise Units at Oceans Studios (Cabinet minute 25 referred) and updated the council on the figures, amending the figure of £794,000 to £802,655 due to the withdrawal of some anticipated funding.

Councillor Jarvis seconded the proposal.

Following a debate, Councillor Evans indicated that officers would take action to mitigate the risks and offered a briefing to Councillor Darcy if he so wished.

Following a vote, subject to a favourable outcome to both the European Regional Development Fund and Growing Places Fund applications, Agreed that the council -

- (1) acts as guarantor for Ocean Studios Community Interest Company (CIC) for repayment of the balance of the Trust's loan from the LEP outstanding to a maximum of £802,655 in accordance with an agreed Heads of Terms between Plymouth City Council and the Ocean Studios CIC which mitigates the potential financial impact upon the council. Authority to agree the Heads of Terms to be delegated to the Director for Place;
- (2) makes a capital contribution of £802,655 from the Investment Fund.

47. **Redevelopment of the Civic Centre and future accommodation requirements**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the Cabinet recommendation seeking approval of the appropriate capital budget to achieve decant of the Civic Centre arising from the redevelopment of the Civic Centre and future accommodation requirements (Cabinet minutes 38, 38a and 45 referred).

The attention of councillors was also drawn to the private report containing confidential information which had been circulated and was referred to in minute 55 below.

Councillor Tuffin seconded the proposal.

Councillors Lowry, Peter Smith and Bowyer and the officers (Alwyn Thomas (Senior Commercial Lawyer) and Les Allen (Transformation Programmes Manager)) were thanked for their work on this project.

Following a debate, the proposal was put to the vote,

Agreed the appropriate capital budgets to achieve decant of the Civic Centre, as identified within the private report referred to in Cabinet minute 45 and minute 55 below.

48. **The Brilliant Co-operative Council Sustainable Three Year Plan**

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) presented the Cabinet recommendations on the Brilliant Co-operative Council Sustainable Three Year Plan (Cabinet minute 42 referred) and indicated that in order to avoid cuts to address the £65m predicted shortfall in three years' time, a transformation programme was being developed with a view to adopting a commercial approach to providing services. The council would work with partners, communities and the Co-operative Scrutiny Board. In addition opposition members would be invited to join a proposed Transformation Advisory Group.

Councillor Williams seconded the proposal and emphasised the importance of a cross party approach on this issue.

Councillor James (Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board) presented the recommendations of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board on the plan (minute 61 referred) and welcomed the transformation proposals.

Following a debate, Councillor Evans advised members that he had appointed Councillor Williams as the Cabinet lead for transformation.

The recommendations of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board were noted, which endorsed the Cabinet recommendations and included a request for a further report to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board on 16 October 2013 when Councillor Evans and the Chief Executive would report on the transformation programme and its key elements, including governance proposals.

Agreed -

- (1) to adopt a longer term approach to addressing the reduction in funding available to the council, planning for a balanced indicative budget in each of the coming three years;
- (2) to support the implementation of a council-wide transformation programme, based on co-operative values, to substantially reduce the operating costs of the council and ensure the maximum possible investment in achieving the council's objectives;
- (3) that Cabinet reviews earmarked reserves and balances to ensure that the Transformation Programme reserve is adequate to cover cash flow requirements for the period of 2013/14 to 2016/17 (managing the overall costs incurred and savings achieved across each financial year).

49. **WEBCASTING**

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved, and Councillor Stevens seconded, the recommendations in the written report of the Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance on webcasting.

During the debate, the issues raised included –

- (a) that webcasting was not a necessity in the current financial climate especially with local media reporting on meetings;
- (b) that the cost of £74,000 was justified to increase public access to council decision making;
- (c) that the council was committed to openness and transparency;
- (d) that income of £55,000 had been generated to support the work of the Police and Crime Panel;
- (e) a previous motion moved by Councillor Ball and discussed by the City Council in October 2010 in relation to the enforcement of a ban on the electronic recording of speech and making photographic and/or video images.

During the debate, the Lord Mayor reminded councillors with regard to their behaviour and their responsibility to be good role models to any children watching the webcast.

Councillor Smith, in summing up, reminded members that the proposal had been discussed at the cross party Constitutional Review Group and had been unanimously supported.

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

For the motion (32)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Bowie, Casey, Coker, Damarell, P. Davey, S Davey, Evans, Fox, Gordon, Haydon, Jarvis, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, 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 (20)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, James, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Ricketts, Dr Salter, Stark and Williams.

Abstentions (2)

Lord Mayor (Chair) and Councillor Churchill (Deputy Lord Mayor).

The following members were absent (3)

Councillors Ball, Martin Leaves and Sam Leaves.

The motion was carried and it was Agreed to -

- (1) continue with the webcasting of meetings;
- (2) share the costs and resources' implications evenly across the council.

50. **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: PLANNING COMMITTEE CODE OF PRACTICE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) moved the recommendations in the written report of the Monitoring Officer on the Planning Committee Code of Practice and terms of reference.

Councillor Stevens (Chair of the Planning Committee) seconded the proposals.

Following a vote, it was Agreed to adopt -

- (1) the revised Planning Committee Code of Practice as submitted;
- (2) the change to the Planning Committee's terms of reference as submitted.

51. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) proposed the recommendations in the written report of the Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance on Code of Conduct complaints.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor Stevens.

Councillor Wheeler moved and Councillor Bowie seconded, an amendment to add a new paragraph 1.2.4. as follows –

‘For any complaint that does not result in reference to the police, the Member (the subject of the complaint) shall be advised of the complaint within five working days. If not available at that time, full details shall be provided within a further 10 days.’

Following a vote, the amendment was agreed.

The main motion, as amended, was put to the vote and it was Agreed to formally adopt the arrangements for Code of Conduct complaints set out in the written report, in accordance with section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, subject to the addition of a new paragraph 1.2.4. as follows –

‘For any complaint that does not result in reference to the police, the Member (the subject of the complaint) shall be advised of the complaint within five working days. If not available at that time, full details shall be provided within a further 10 days.’

MOTION ON NOTICE

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

52. **Images / Sexualisation of Children and Young People**

Councillor Kate Taylor moved and Councillor Williams seconded the following motion, as amended with the addition of clause (5) –

This council recognises that the sexualisation of children is an on-going and developing issue, particularly for parents, and that we now live in an increasingly sexual and sexualised culture.

This council welcomes the recommendations of the government's Bailey Review: ‘Letting Children Be Children’ report and remains committed to ensuring that all children grow up in a safe environment, which includes children not being exposed to sexualised imagery in public places.

The definition of sexualisation is contained in the Home Office - Sexualisation of Young People Review: Dr. Linda Papadopoulos. Sexualisation occurs when children and young people –

- have adult sexuality imposed on them;
- are told their value comes only from their sexual appeal or behaviour, that their physical attractiveness is judged solely with being sexy to exclusion of other characteristics; and
- are sexually objectified (made into a ‘thing’ for other people's sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making).

This council –

- (1) pledges its support to campaigns which aim to protect children and young people from exposure to inappropriate and unnecessary sexualised images in the promotion, marketing and advertising for goods and services and to remove publications which carry such imagery from council owned buildings and services where children are likely to see it;
- (2) commits to communicate the rationale for this action to staff and council service users;
- (3) commits to look at how the council can work with its' partners to reduce the amount of on-street advertising containing sexualised imagery in locations where children are likely to see it in line with Recommendation 2 of the Bailey Review and the Advertising Standards Agency's guidelines on sexual imagery in outdoor advertising;
- (4) will take into account measures, that include the reduction or elimination of sexualised imagery on any licensed premises, by utilising licensing policies; in particular by means of the licensing objective that promotes the protection of children from harm;
- (5) instructs the Chief Executive to prepare the necessary guidance in support of implementing clauses (1) – (4) above.

During the debate, the issues raised included that -

- (a) the pressures could cause depression and eating disorders in children and young people;
- (b) councillors had responsibilities as corporate parents to take such actions as they could to protect children and young people in their care;
- (c) responsibility also laid with parents in monitoring internet use by their children.

The motion, as amended, was agreed for the reasons stated.

53. **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 Nicholson	Councillor Stevens	With reference to planning consents at the Royal William Yard and car parking issues at Devil's Point, could an update be provided on the car parking strategy in relation to Devil's Point?
	Councillor Vincent responded that he would provide a written response.		
2	Councillor Bowie	Councillor Williams	The Rt Hon Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) had made an announcement on the rewards from the provision of free school meals. What was the council's position? This matter could be picked up as part of the 'Narrowing the Gap' exercise.
	Councillor Williams responded that following a pilot in two areas on the provision of free school meals, it had been found that attainment had been increased and productivity had been improved. She was disappointed that the council (following a motion submitted at the time) had not taken the opportunity to be part of the pilot scheme.		
3	Councillor Darcy	Councillor Lowry	Did he agree that, with the shortfalls in the budget, there was a need to ensure value for money for services, for example in planning? Would he apologise for wasting council tax payers money by calling in a planning application to Planning Committee and not speaking to it.
	Councillor Lowry responded 'yes' to the first part. He called in the planning application because he felt it was important for the Planning Committee to look at it. He had registered to speak but did not need to do so.		
4	Councillor Bowyer	Councillor Williams	Was she aware of the opinion by European Union lawyers on the financial transactions tax which says that the tax was not compatible with existing laws and was discriminatory? With reference to a previous motion approved by the council on this, would another motion be introduced?
	Councillor Williams responded that she would seek guidance from officers on the implications.		
5	Councillor Dr Mahony	Councillor Vincent	Could he be updated on the progress of the reinstatement of the football pitch following the removal of spoil associated with the Life Centre project.

	Councillor Vincent responded that the site would be levelled with topsoil to provide a football pitch and that the Friends of Central Park would be kept informed of progress. The reinstatement was not part of the Life Centre project and he could not provide an exact date for the work at the present time.		
6	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Williams	Did she think that it was acceptable for four and five year olds to travel across the city to school? There were no reception places either in Plympton or Plymstock and was it acceptable for parents to be advised to send their children to either Wembury or a free school, with no support?
	Councillor Williams responded that 80 per cent of children had received their first choice of school this year. The government had reduced funding which had limited the ability of the council to plan for places. She was happy to look at any individual cases brought to her attention.		
7	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Vincent	How was the council moving forward on planning policy in relation to Drake's Island? Could he be updated on any regeneration policies to secure improvements to the island?
	Councillor Vincent responded that it was a decision for the applicant and he had faith in the actions of the officers who were dealing with it. The Lord Mayor advised the councillors to discuss this matter outside of the meeting.		
8	Councillor Fry	Councillor Williams	Would she implement free school meals for every child?
	Councillor Williams responded that she had no resources from government to do so. She was taking action to encourage uptake and scrutiny would examine issues such as this through the 'Narrowing the Gap' exercise.		
9	Councillor Mrs Beer	Councillor Evans	Why do Cabinet Members have personal assistants to support their roles when they have generous allowances to carry out their commitments? How much did it cost?
	Councillor Evans responded that the employment of executive assistants enabled Cabinet Members to undertake their role effectively, making them more accessible to the community and partners rather than dealing with administrative arrangements. He was not prepared to discuss salaries of individuals in this forum.		

10	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Williams	An impending baby boom had been known for some time by councillors. Could she outline what action was going to be taken with regard to children suffering today and who had not got places today?
	Councillor Williams responded that she did not have the figures to hand. Capital provision had been made for the expansion of primary schools and she was taking every action she could. Government funding was being channelled to Free Schools.		
11	Councillor Monahan	Councillor Williams	A recent statement indicated that less than half of those questioned were carrying out debrief sessions with looked after children who had run away. What percentage applied in Plymouth?
	Councillor Williams responded that that debriefs were undertaken to try and identify children at risk and that she was working hard for a peninsula and national response on this.		
12	Councillor Darcy	Councillor Coker	Could he have an update on the progress of works to the junctions of Cott Hill and Merafield Road, funded by Morrisons?
	Councillor Coker responded that the works at the junctions of Cott Hill / Plymouth Road and Cott Hill / Merafield Road were subject to approval by the local planning authority and that to date no plans had been received. Ward councillors would be consulted on the proposals.		
13	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Peter Smith	What was the process for the disposal of the community stage and could he explain why?
	Councillor Smith responded that the disposal had been agreed under the Conservative administration of the council.		
14	Councillor Foster	Councillor Vincent	What was the official policy on the number of garden waste bags that would be collected from households?
	Councillor Vincent responded that the policy was two bags per household.		
15	Councillor Fry	Councillor Vincent	Could he provide in writing the current position on Drake's Island and the Oceanique building?
	Councillor Vincent undertook to provide a written response.		

16	Councillor Darcy (on behalf of Councillor Ball who was absent)	Councillor Coker	Could he furnish him with the policy on the use of the CCTV camera car outside of the City Centre?
	Councillor Coker undertook to provide the policy.		
17	Councillor Michael Leaves	Councillor Vincent	Would four bags of garden waste be collected from a household?
	Councillor Vincent responded that he had previously raised this issue with officers and that if there was capacity was on the vehicle, all garden waste should be collected.		
18	Councillor James	Councillor Vincent	Would the roadside memorial policy be brought to council and if so, when?
	Councillor Vincent responded that a policy was being developed and that there would be cross party involvement.		
19	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Evans	Did he recall that the Drake's Island planning application had been unsuccessful as the applicant had not provided nature studies? The survey could only be undertaken at a particular time of the year and was it not inappropriate for any councillor to encourage an application?
	Councillor Evans responded that he recalled that advice. He would be seeking guidance from the Monitoring Officer on the actions of the Planning Committee member.		

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

54. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

55. **REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CIVIC CENTRE AND FUTURE ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS (E3)**

With reference to minute 47 above, the private Cabinet report on the redevelopment of the Civic Centre and future accommodation requirements was submitted to the City Council.

56. **SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE (E2 and 3)**

The Chief Executive introduced her report on the Senior Management Restructure and referred to the addendum to the report which had been circulated.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) proposed the recommendations in the written report and Councillor Fry (Leader of the Opposition) seconded the proposals.

Following a debate, Councillor Evans indicated that officers would be working with the staff side.

Agreed that –

- (1) the proposals for changes to the Corporate Management Team and Senior Management Team are approved;
- (2) the outline timetable implementing the changes to Chief Officer positions and their direct reports, is noted;
- (3) an Appointments Panel is established with delegated authority to consider any further responses from the collective and individual consultation undertaken; approve the role profiles of the new positions; agree how the roles will be selected; make appointments to roles as appropriate and agree the dismissal of any Chief Officer by means of redundancy subject to the City Council's redundancy policy;
- (4) an Appeal Panel is established with delegated authority for hearing and considering any appeals against any potential Chief Officer redundancies;
- (5) the City Council's constitution is amended to reflect the changes to the Chief Officer structure and the designation of the statutory roles of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer;
- (6) an Appointments Panel is established with delegated authority to appoint to the vacant role of Assistant Director for Co-operative Commissioning and Adult Social Care. Given the urgent operational issue linked to recruiting to this role, the Appointments Panel will consider if there are suitable internal candidates who could be appointed first, before considering an external recruitment campaign.

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