

# City Council

Monday 27 January 2014

## PRESENT:

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

Councillor K Foster, Vice Chair and the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Churchill, Vice Chair subsequently.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Coker, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Evans, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, James, Jarvis, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam 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), Nicola Kirby and Helen Wright (Democratic Support).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowie, Haydon and Jordan.

The meeting started at 2pm and finished at 5.32 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.*

## 77. DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor advised that the Deputy Lord Mayor would join the City Council meeting on his return from Plymouth University where the formal period of reflection for schools and colleges was taking place for the Holocaust Memorial Day.

Agreed that Councillor K Foster is appointed Vice Chair of the meeting pending the return of the Deputy Lord Mayor.

## 78. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 25 November 2013.

## 79. 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>
Councillors Darcy and Nicholson	Minute 84: Revised Council Tax Support Scheme	Private	Appointed as a Magistrate dealing with attachment of earnings
Councillor Stark	Minute 90: Holocaust Memorial Day – Monday 27 January 2014	Private	Trustee of the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity

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

The City Council agreed the following change and membership of the Chief Officer Appeals Panel -

	<b>Committees and Other Bodies</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Appointments 2013/14</b>
(1)	Adoption and Permanence Panel	One councillor	Councillor Tuohy to replace Councillor Parker
(2)	Chief Officer Appeals Panel	Three councillors (two Labour and one Conservative)	Councillors Fry, McDonald and Murphy

81. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Lord Mayor -**

- (a) referred to the recent death of Alderman John Finnigan (known as Jack) on 16 January 2014 at the age of 90 years. Alderman Finnegan represented the Sutton Ward following his election to the Plymouth City Council in 1980 where he focussed on the former Public Services Committee and the Planning Committee. He became Deputy Lord Mayor in 1984/85 and then Lord Mayor of Plymouth in 1990/91. He was later made Alderman of the city in 1995.

The Council was advised of the funeral arrangements and that they would be informed of arrangements for a commemoration service in Plymouth when details were confirmed.

The Council stood in silence for one minute as mark of respect.

- (b) congratulated Tracy Green (Family Intervention Officer) and Betty and John Insley on their award of MBEs in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2014 and thanked them on behalf of the Council for their achievements and services to the city. Tracy Green was recognised for her services to children and young people and Betty and John Insley (foster carers) after caring for more than 200 children over 35 years;
- (c) thanked Michelle Newman for her years of continued service to the Council and the children of Plymouth, following her success as team leader of the year at the national 'Social Worker of the Year 2013' awards.

The Lord Mayor presented the award which had been given for the excellent support she provided to her team, her ongoing dedication to the role and her steady-hand which helped to give a highly pressured team, a stable foundation on which to work;

- (d) congratulated the Sports Development Unit on their achievement as Community Partner of the Year in the South West from England Athletics, in recognition of the outstanding contribution made to athletics in the city.

The Lord Mayor presented the award to Louise Kelley (Sports Development Manager), Martin Lees (Community Sports Manager), Barry Mountstevens (Sports Development Coordinator) and Nyrene Wise, Paul Johnson and Charlotte Brew (Sport and Recreation Assistants);

- (e) congratulated the Plymouth Care Co-ordination Team who had been 'highly commended' in the NHS Innovation Challenge Prize for dementia in recognition of the team's work on a pilot scheme to support people with dementia, to stay living in the community and to reduce hospital admissions. The team had also been invited to speak at two major conferences and other authorities were showing interest in the initiative.

The Lord Mayor presented the award to Debbie Butcher and Anna Coles from Co-operative Commissioning and Adult Social Care and Steve Waite from the Plymouth Community Healthcare.

#### **Councillor Evans (Council Leader) -**

- (f) presented a framed signed picture of HMS Warspite to the Lord Mayor to be hung in the Council House to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the battleship on 26 November 2013;
- (g) announced that the historic city deal for the Plymouth and South West Peninsula had been signed as a result of partnership working between local authorities, business and public sectors in the region and government. He paid tribute to the officers particularly Patrick Hartop and Amanda Ratsey who had negotiated the deal which included £19.8m and eight hectares of land;

- (h) advised councillors of the Late Kenneth Edward Tucker's legacy to Plymouth City Council. A silver cup had been purchased in the memory of his parents (the late former councillors Gladys May and William Tucker) to commemorate their service with the Council. The award would be presented annually to the Children's Services Social Worker of the Year (as Kenneth Tucker was a former social worker), the first one to be presented at a future Council meeting and thereafter at the Staff Awards;
- (i) congratulated Anthony Jinman (a Plymothian) on his achievement on reaching the South Pole;
- (j) welcomed Superintendent Chris Singer who had been seconded from the Police to join the Corporate Management Team, focussing on community engagement and strategic alignment between the Council and the Police;
- (k) referred to representations he had received about trees in Cornwall Street and advised the Council that he had asked the City Centre Company not to proceed with the suggested tree surgery and to deal with the problems of pavement cracking and CCTV in a different way.

**Councillor McDonald** (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care) reported the responses received from Oliver Colvile MP and Alison Seabeck MP, following the Council's motion on tobacco control.

**Councillor Williams** (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People) referred to -

- (l) the Council's adoption scorecard and reported that a letter of congratulations had been received from Edward Timpson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families for the year on year improvement in the adoption service;
- (m) the improvement in the GSCE results for Plymouth and congratulated young people and teachers on the achievement.

**Councillor Coker** (Cabinet Member for Transport) reported that he was adding £50k to this year's budget for urgent repairs to the road network following the recent severe weather.

**Councillor Penberthy** (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development) reported that the city had achieved the status as a City of Service, one of four cities selected as a partner in this new initiative supported by NESTA (an innovation charity) and the Cabinet Office, to mobilise volunteers to meet city wide challenges such as fuel, food and child poverty.

## 82. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

One question had been received from a member of the public in relation to a matter which, in the opinion of the Lord Mayor, was relevant to the business of the meeting in accordance with paragraph 10 of the constitution.

Ms Linda Crick attended the meeting to put her question and Councillor Penberthy responded as follows –

<b>Question No</b>	<b>Question By</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Q12/13-14	Linda Crick	Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development)	Local Welfare Provision Grant
<p>Given recent reports that the Conservative led government is going to scrap the "local welfare provision grant" from 2015, could the Council confirm how much of this funding has come to Plymouth, what it's been used for and what effect it's withdrawal will have on local people.</p>			
<p><b>Response:</b>            I am disappointed that less than a year after the commencement of local delivery of the welfare provision grant, and before any evaluation has been undertaken, the Conservative Government has cut the funding by 100 per cent.</p> <p>Let us be clear, this fund helps anyone in Plymouth at a time of crisis – it is assessed on the basis of situation not employment status. It also seeks to provide means tested support for local people going through major life changes that require rehousing or resettlement.</p> <p>The total funding received for 2012/13 is £1,064,046 of which we have allocated administration costs of £80,000, leaving a budget for front line resource of £984,046. In 2014/15 we expect to receive a total of £1,048,567. Thereafter there will be no funding available from this Tory and Lib Dem coalition government.</p> <p>In Plymouth we had anticipated the cuts to the welfare system would have a substantial impact on people in Plymouth. This Labour administration, working very closely with our partners, implemented a suite of early intervention and prevention measures to mitigate this impact.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Department for Work and Pensions was not able to give us information about how the Social Fund was used; how many repeat customers they had; the number of customers in each household; what was being asked for; all really important information we lacked when we put our scheme together. Following pre-decision scrutiny recommendations Cabinet we agreed that we needed to set and publish very strict criteria to access our Emergency and Welfare Fund a view endorsed and adopted by Full Council.</p> <p>Up to the end of December 2013 the Emergency and Welfare Fund had awarded 959 Crisis Payments, including money for food and utilities, and 372 Community Care Payments, including household items and white goods. Demand for the Emergency and Welfare Fund is rising month on month, and we anticipate seeing this continue.</p>			

Unlike the scheme that the Department for Work and Pensions operated, which simply handed out resources, we focus on providing wider help and support for people who approach us in crisis, with the aim of preventing future problems and reducing their call on the Fund. We work towards helping an individual address any underlying financial difficulties they are having, referring customers to support such as Advice Plymouth which delivers financial capability (money management) courses and debt advice.

Where we pay out Community Care Payments for household goods we offer a customer the option of having the money paid into a credit union account rather than having the cash, if they do not already have a bank account.

Over the course of this financial year this Labour administration and our partners have continued to engage in further early intervention and prevention activity and through this have additional support that we have been able to offer people through the Emergency and Welfare Fund:

- clearing arrears if tenants need to downsize because of the Bedroom Tax, but are unable to do so because of the rent owed;
- providing advice and support for the 642 people waiting to downsize because of the Bedroom Tax;
- providing support for the Food Bank; which also offers a signposting service, computer training, work clubs, and cooking lessons.
- employing a new worker for Plymouth Energy Community to help people sort energy debt, improve their energy efficiency and enable them to switch to cheaper providers;
- providing a fund to incentivise saving with a credit union;
- continuing a specialist caseworker to work within our Housing and Revenues and Benefits services, to identify and deal with problems early;
- establishing a fund to ensure people get Medical Assessments and Disclosure and Barring Service Checks when they need them to access benefits and get into work;
- a feasibility study into the council providing an ethical payday lending scheme.

Plymouth's Emergency and Welfare Fund is targeted at the most vulnerable people in our city – those with limited resources and in the most need. Those for whom a grant prevents a crisis or enables independent living and is life-changing. Messrs Duncan-Smith and Pickles removal of the funding will place people in Plymouth in a very difficult position.

As a result of the total cut to the Emergency and Welfare Fund being imposed by this Conservative government we will have to reduce the amount of early intervention, prevention and support work we are able to do, including in the area of the financial capability work Kayleigh benefitted from. The way we provide our Emergency and Welfare Fund will also have to change but we will seek to stretch the budget for 2014/15 out to also cover 2015/16 and 2016/17 but in doing this criteria will have to be tightened. However, we will continue to do our best to mitigate the impact of these Conservative cuts on our local residents.

## **CABINET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **83. Capital Programme Approvals**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the report of Malcolm Coe (Assistant Director for Finance) on capital programme approvals in relation to Seaton Neighbourhood and Primary Basic Need (Cabinet minutes 62 and 64 referred).

Councillor Williams seconded the proposals and also reported further to the Cabinet report, that Widewell Primary School had turned down the basic need funding earmarked for the school and that discussions were taking place to identify an alternative school expansion.

Following a vote, Agreed –

- (1) the £2.170m acquisition of land at Seaton Neighbourhood for the NHS land detailed in the Cabinet report and the associated use of a loan from the Council's Investment Fund;
- (2) a virement of £2.775m to release funds from the Basic Need and School Condition capital resources to progress the following schemes –
  - £2.475m to build a new two form entry school with early years' provision to replace the current provision on the Knowle Primary School site from September 2015;
  - £300,000 to build a new classroom at St Peter's CE Primary School to enable the school to have sufficient space to allocate to their Planned Admission Number (PAN) and to increase their PAN from 25 to 30 from September 2014.

(Councillors Darcy and Nicholson declared a private interest in the above item).

(At the conclusion of the item, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Churchill) resumed his position as Vice Chair of the meeting).

### **84. Revised Council Tax Support Scheme**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the Cabinet recommendation on the revised Council Tax Support Scheme (Cabinet minute 91 referred).

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development).

The City Council was advised that there was a typographical error in the Cabinet recommendation to Council and that the reduction should be from 25 per cent to 20 per cent, not from 20 to 25 per cent.

Councillor Lowry, in summing up, undertook to share the figures relating to the calculation of the cost of the liability orders with Councillor Nicholson. He also shared Councillor Penberthy's sadness that attachment of earnings could not be made on a voluntary basis and that the local authority had to apply for them to be made through the courts, with the associated costs. He welcomed any efforts made to lobby Members of Parliament to change this process.

Following a vote, it was Agreed to approve that the 2013/14 Council Tax Support Scheme continues for the 2014/15 financial year and that all elements of the scheme remain the same except the requirement for minimum contribution for all working age residents reducing from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

85. **Council Tax Base Setting 2014/15**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) presented the Cabinet recommendation on the Council Tax Base Setting 2014/15 (Cabinet minute 92 referred). Councillor Evans (Council Leader) seconded the proposal.

Following a vote, it was Agreed to approve the Council Tax base for 2014/15 tax setting as 67,066 Band D equivalents, which is the tax base after allowing for an estimated collection rate of 97.5 per cent.

86. **Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 Mid-Year Review**

In accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice, Councillor Wheeler (Chair of the Audit Committee) presented an update on the progress and outcomes against the Treasury Management Strategy for the six month period ended 30 September 2013.

The City Council noted the report.

87. **POLLING PLACE, POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATION ALTERATIONS**

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) presented the report on Polling Place, Polling Districts and Polling Station Alterations, indicating that -

- (a) the Council had a duty to keep polling districts and places under review;
- (b) a review was undertaken every four years;
- (c) the Returning Officer had responsibility for polling locations;
- (d) Stoke Damerell and St Gabriel Churches had both agreed to the use of their facilities for election purposes.

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) proposed and Councillor Evans (Council Leader) seconded the recommendations in the written report with a slight amendment to recommendation 4 as shown below (additional words underlined) -



- (4) the List of Polling Places and Districts ~~and Stations~~ attached to the written report is ~~confirmed~~ approved and to note the list of Polling Stations within the Polling Districts as approved by the Returning Officer.

Following a vote, it was Agreed that –

- (1) the Electoral Registration Officer keeps all electoral activities under constant review;
- (2) the alterations listed in the report are implemented from 17 February 2014 -
- (a) Polling District and Polling Place BE to be merged with Polling District and Polling Place BC, with Halcyon Methodist Church allocated as the polling station;
- (b) Polling District and Polling Place BG to be merged with Polling District and Polling Place BH, with St Pancras Church Hall allocated as the new polling station;
- (c) the polling districts in the Ham ward to be renamed as follows with effect from 17 February 2014 -

Current Polling District Name	New Polling District Name to be allocated after 17 February 2014	Polling Station
BA	BA	Weston Mill Primary School
BB	BB	Weston Mill Oak Villa Club
BC + BE	BC	Halcyon Methodist Church
BD	BD	Mobile at Tewkesbury Close
BF	BE	Morice Baptist Church
BG + BH	BF	St Pancras Church

- (3) that the following is noted -
- (a) the Stoke Damerel Centre to be used as polling station for Polling District JC instead of Stoke Damerel Primary School;
- (b) St Gabriel's Church to replace Peverell Methodist Church;
- (4) the List of Polling Places and Districts attached to the written report is approved and to note the list of Polling Stations within the Polling Districts as approved by the Returning Officer.

88. **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND THE LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) reported an amendment to his Scheme of Delegation for Executive Functions to clarify that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for finance was responsible for housing benefit and revenues apart from the Council's Emergency Welfare Fund and other discretionary payments, which would be the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Co-operatives and Community Development.

The Council noted the amendment to the Leader's scheme of delegation for executive functions.

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) proposed and Councillor Evans (Council Leader) seconded the recommendation on constitutional changes as set out in the written report of Tracey Lee (Chief Executive).

Councillors were advised that it had not had been possible to call a meeting of the Constitutional Review Panel for these changes in view of the time constraints but that a meeting of the panel would be convened shortly.

Following a vote, it was Agreed to amend the delegation of non-executive functions within the Constitution, to reflect the new senior management restructure from a date to be determined by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader, and that the Monitoring Officer makes any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

89. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) presented the Pay Policy Statement appended to the written report of Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), which was a requirement under the Localism Act 2011.

The attention of councillors was also drawn to the current review of the management structure and the adoption of the Living Wage in 2013.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Evans (Council Leader).

Following a vote, it was Agreed to approve the Pay Policy Statement, which describes the current policies in relation to remuneration.

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

90. **Holocaust Memorial Day - Monday 27 January 2014**

Councillor Penberthy proposed and Councillor Philippa Davey seconded the following motion -

'Council recognises that the Holocaust shook the foundations of modern civilisation. Council believes that we must make sure that everyone especially future generations understands the causes of the Holocaust and reflects upon its consequences and lessons for today.'

Council notes that –

- Holocaust Memorial Day was established in the UK in 2001. It remembers and honours all the victims and survivors of the Holocaust under Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo and Darfur.
- Six million Jewish men, women and children perished in ghettos, mass-shootings, and concentration and extermination camps before any survivors were liberated by allied troops in 1945.
- Nearly half a million Gypsies and Travellers were also registered, sterilised and then deported to concentration camps by the Nazis in an event they call the Porajmos (the ‘devouring’).
- Similar fates met gay men, lesbians and transgendered and disabled people. Between 1933 and 1945, an estimated 100,000 men were arrested as homosexuals, of whom some 50,000 were officially sentenced with 15,000 incarcerated within concentration camps. Figures in relation to lesbians and transgendered people are not known. An estimated 200,000 disabled people were killed by the Nazis.

Over a thousand events will be taking place around the UK today, on Holocaust Memorial Day; and attending these will be Holocaust survivors. Locally, Solly Irving, a Holocaust survivor is undertaking his annual visits to our schools to talk about his experiences as well as speaking at a public event in Crownhill. We held our Civic commemorative event yesterday at Mount Edgecombe and today there is a daylong exhibition in the University attended by many of our school children.

We, as a Council, recognise the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day as an opportunity for us all to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. We are grateful that it also gives us the chance to pay tribute to those who survived and to ensure we remain aware of what can happen if prejudice, discrimination and hatred go unchallenged.

Plymouth City Council therefore resolves to –

- (1) promote the importance of today’s and future Holocaust Memorial Days and to support annual commemorative events within our city;
- (2) foster a shared responsibility to create a better present and future for all by recognising that humanity is still scarred by the belief that race, religion, disability or sexuality makes some people’s lives worth less than others;
- (3) support the development and promotion of Plymouth’s Welcoming City plan;
- (4) take a stand against genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, hate crimes and discrimination.’

With the consent of the Council, Councillor Penberthy was granted an extension of time to introduce his motion.

During the debate, the issues raised included that –

- (a) it was important that the work of the Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity continued;
- (b) young people and children in Plymouth had chosen to mark this day through singing and dancing;
- (c) that it was important to contribute at a practical level;
- (d) that parents had a role to play in bringing up children to recognise that we were all the same, and that it was important to teach children to love and not to hate.

Councillor Jarvis also gave a moving personal account of family tragedy as a result of the holocaust.

Following a vote, it was Agreed to –

- (1) promote the importance of today's and future Holocaust Memorial Days and to support annual commemorative events within our city;
- (2) foster a shared responsibility to create a better present and future for all by recognising that humanity is still scarred by the belief that race, religion, disability or sexuality makes some people's lives worth less than others;
- (3) support the development and promotion of Plymouth's Welcoming City plan;
- (4) take a stand against genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, hate crimes and discrimination.

(Councillor Stark declared a private interest in the above item).

## 91. **Public Health Settlement - Plymouth**

Councillor McDonald proposed and Councillor Evans seconded the following motion -

'The health profiles recently published by Public Health England show the scale of the challenge that faces us in Plymouth. Only four of the 32 indicators are green and for 18 the situation in Plymouth is significantly worse than the national average.

We are currently attempting to address these serious public health issues with an allocation (in 2013/14) of £43 per head. This compares to the Public Health England (PHE) target figure of £55 per head. We are underfunded by £12 per head this year. Plymouth's funding situation will not improve significantly in 2014/15 as we will still be underfunded by £11 per head (£47 allocation compared to the PHE £58 target). Even with the two annual 10 per cent uplifts our closing distance from target figure will be minus 19.6 per cent in 2014/15.

When compared with our Office of National Statistics comparators, Plymouth's poor settlement situation becomes even more apparent. As already stated, in 2014/15 our per head allocation will be £47. This compares with, for example, Portsmouth £77, Brighton and Hove £67, Bristol £66 and Southampton £62. The Public Health England Profiles for these areas reveals that their health indicators appear to be more favourable than those of Plymouth.

The People of Plymouth deserve the best of health and to support this we need fair funding for public health.

We therefore call upon this Council to request that the Leader of the Council write to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and to the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Public Health, Jane Ellison MP to request a meeting with us and our MPs to ensure this funding shortfall is rectified as a matter of urgency.

In addition, the Chief Executive seeks an urgent meeting with Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England to discuss the matter.'

During the debate, the issues raised included –

- (a) the tiered structure of public health with directors, regions, a national board and the Secretary of State together with associated costs;
- (b) that the settlement was insufficient to tackle the health inequalities in the city;
- (c) that support should be enlisted from former members of staff at public health now working at Public Health England.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) accepted Councillor Bowyer's offer to co-sign the letter to the Secretary of State and also to assist Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) in making contact with the Chief Executive of Public Health England.

Following a vote, it was Agreed that –

- (1) the Leader of the Council write to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and to the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Public Health, Jane Ellison MP to request a meeting with the Council and the city's MPs to ensure this funding shortfall is rectified as a matter of urgency;
- (2) the Chief Executive seeks an urgent meeting with Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England to discuss the matter.

**QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS**

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

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Councillor Mrs Beer	Councillor Vincent / Councillor Stevens	Why was there no consultation with Plympton Erle ward councillors on the proposed Plymouth Gypsy traveller site? A reassurance was sought that in future local councillors were consulted on issues on the boundary of their wards.
	<p>Councillor Vincent responded that he had had no discussions or consultations on the site.</p> <p>Councillor Stevens also responded that there was a legal requirement on the part of South Hams to formally consult with the Council and that did not take place. Informal contact was made through a Council officer who was not authorised to speak on behalf of the authority. Gary Streeter MP had put in a formal objection to the application but had not advised councillors or residents.</p> <p>Ward councillors would be advised if there was a formal consultation from an adjoining local authority.</p>		
2	Councillor Bowyer	Councillor Coker	What was the latest position on the package of proposals announced in relation to car parking charges? When would a decision be made?
	Councillor Coker responded that consultation had finished before Christmas and officers were finalising a report which would be considered by Cabinet Members shortly.		
3	Councillor Mrs Bowyer	Councillor Coker	187 fines had been issued to motorists following a police diversion into a bus lane. Did the police contribute towards the cost of cancelling the tickets? What were the costs?
	Councillor Coker undertook to provide a written response. He also responded that the police had to make a decision quickly and that he had subsequently met with them to put protocols in place to ensure that the Council were notified quickly so that the cameras could be turned off.		
4	Councillor Morris	Councillor Vincent	What would be the effect of the government proposal on areas such as Dartmoor, if disused farm buildings could be replaced with up to three dwellings? How would this affect Plymouth's own local nature reserves?

	<p>Councillor Vincent responded that the proposals were part of the initiative to reduce red tape in the planning system and make it easier to build houses. In reality, it could lead to housing being developed randomly across the national parks where there were derelict barns and farms. In total there were 6,000 agricultural buildings in Dartmoor and Exmoor that could be affected by this proposal and many more in the region's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There would then also need to be roads and power lines to connect them with the associated impact on wildlife and the natural environment.</p> <p>The nature reserves were inner city green spaces managed by the Council.</p>		
5	Councillor Ball	Councillor Coker	<p>Were roads likely to be less safe in the dark? Following the removal of street lighting in an unadopted road in Compton, could an assurance be given that every effort would be made to install street lighting?</p>
	<p>Councillor Coker responded that street lighting played an important role in the safety of residents. Provision of street lighting in unadopted areas was an issue and he was working with officers on a solution and would involve ward councillors to move this matter forward.</p>		
6	Councillor Dr Mahony	Councillor Coker	<p>There was concern at the large potholes, rubble and spray painted offensive graffiti on roads (for example on Glendower Road). The graffiti had been reported, but no feedback was ever received.</p>
	<p>Councillor Coker responded that more investment was being made in the next couple of months for potholes in addition to the sustained investment previously committed. The recent bad weather had caused additional damage to the road network and the Council required £60 to 80m to bring the network up to a satisfactory standard. He also undertook to report the graffiti, if it had not already been done.</p> <p>With regard to feedback, Councillor Dr Mahony had not attended the recent annual presentation by Amey when such issues could have been aired. Those attending had commended Amey on the improved monthly communications. Councillor Coker offered to take up any specific issues with Amey.</p>		
7	Councillor Drean	Councillor Coker	<p>Would the transport team review traffic flow in Martin Street in the light of the multi-million pound ferry coming to the city from 2017?</p>
	<p>Councillor Coker responded that they would.</p>		
8	Councillor Darcy	Councillor Penberthy	<p>When and how would the significant underspend of the hardship fund be addressed and the monies given to those most in need? How and when would the monies be spent?</p>
	<p>Councillor Penberthy referred to the response given to the public question (referred to in minute 82 above) and responded that this year's hardship fund would be spent this year and that in future there would be one pot of money divided into three and spent over the following three years.</p>		

	<p>The Council were helping people to react to a crisis and encouraging them to work with credit unions. Early intervention and prevention work was essential.</p>		
9	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Evans	<p>What dialogue had there been with South Hams District Council on the development of the urban fringe and when would he report to Council? When would other Council members be able to influence decisions?</p>
	<p>Councillor Evans responded that he and officers met regularly with South Hams District Council on the Sherford development. Councillor Lowry had also had conversations on the future land supply. Planning permission had been granted for 10,000 homes and sufficient land had been brought forward to develop thousands of homes in the next five years.</p> <p>Discussions on the Plymouth Plan were being undertaken outside of Plymouth and with partners. Any representations would be welcomed and following the issue of the draft document, further consultation would take place.</p>		
10	Councillor Sam Leaves	Councillor Coker	<p>Was child safety being compromised by the current uncertainty being felt by lollipop people with regard to their future roles? What budget savings would be achieved by the proposal?</p>
	<p>Councillor Coker responded that school crossing patrols had reduced from 47 in 2007 to 34 in 2012. They were a valued institution but the Council's budget shortfall had to be recognised. Officers and Councillor Williams were seeking the support of schools to transfer responsibility for the patrols to them.</p> <p>Councillor Williams also responded that the Council had had problems with recruitment as a result of Council policies and schools would be able to recruit from within their communities and also able to consider combining roles.</p>		
11	Councillor James	Councillor Penberthy	<p>Why had Councillor James' emails of 5 and 19 January 2014 been ignored which referred serious family concerns from a resident to him? Could a written response be provided to him please?</p>
	<p>Councillor Penberthy apologised for the delay and reported that the investigation had been complex due to the family's needs. An offer of family support had not been taken up and he had asked for a case worker to assist. They were currently waiting for the family to respond.</p> <p>A response by email had been sent to Councillor James today which contained all the information except for the information which had arrived during the meeting.</p>		



12	Councillor Fry	Councillor Coker	Was it acceptable that two street columns were removed from a private road in Compton without the knowledge of residents? Did it surprise him that he had been told that the removal was illegal and unwarranted as there were no safety issues?
<p>Councillor Coker responded that he had been advised that one column had been reported as not working and that on inspection, two columns were found to be unsafe and removed as they were a potential danger to the public. He accepted that the situation could have been handled differently and residents could have been notified.</p> <p>His report was based on information provided and he undertook to share that information with Councillor Fry. He asked that Councillor Fry's information was shared with him so that they could work together to resolve this matter.</p>			
13	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Evans	What was the Council doing to address the recent loss of hotel space? Could he supply please the figures for the number of bed spaces, last year, this year and the years beyond?
<p>Councillor Evans responded that the city needed good quality hotel space and the Council and Destination Plymouth were consistently working with hoteliers to attract them to the city.</p> <p>A written response would be provided on the information requested.</p>			
14	Councillor James	Councillor Evans	Was the Council a brilliant co-operative council and if so when did it happen and what criteria were used?
<p>Councillor Evans responded that the Council was a brilliant Co-operative Council and that the Council would get more brilliant.</p>			
15	Councillor Sam Leaves	Councillor McDonald	What action was the Council taking with regard to increases to Accident and Emergency Units and deaths arising from legal highs? What age groups were involved?
<p>Councillor McDonald responded that a multi-agency approach was being undertaken between the youth service, schools and the police and every effort was being taken to minimise harm. The effects from legal highs were unknown making it difficult for the health service to treat and government legislation was required to tackle the problem. She did not have information on age groups.</p>			

This page is intentionally left blank