

Cabinet

Tuesday 22 March 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans, in the Chair.

Councillor Smith, Vice Chair.

Councillors Lowry, Penberthy, Coker, Vincent, McDonald, Tuffin and Jon Taylor.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Philippa Davey

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.00 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. 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.

91. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by members.

92. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were agreed.

93. **Questions from the Public**

There was one question from a member of the public. The questioner attended the meeting and was given the response as follows -

Question No	Question By	Cabinet Member	Subject
CQ15 2015/16	Ms Alison Casey	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services)	PCC staff contracts
I see you support for employees regarding Sunday trading – thinking they should have quality time with families. Also supporting the junior doctors having to sign new contracts to prevent weekend working.			
My question – why was PCC staff forced to sign new contracts which lead them to work at the weekends?			

Response

Your observation is correct, I am opposed to the government's attempts to relax Sunday trading laws, and I do indeed support our junior doctors. I would point out to the questioner that retail workers and junior doctors work at the weekends. As part of its transformation programme, the Council is modernising its services to meet the needs of its customers; this has involved making some services available at the weekend. The Council adopts the principles of collective bargaining when proposing any changes to terms and conditions of employees. No member of staff was forced to sign a new contract. The premise of your question is therefore incorrect.

CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**94. Explosions in Brussels**

Councillor Evans (Leader) invited the Cabinet to send thoughts and condolences to those in Brussels following the bombings which had taken place that morning. He advised that the flags outside the Guildhall were being flown at half-mast as a mark of respect.

95. History Centre update

Councillor Smith introduced and David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Nicola Moyle (Head of Arts and Heritage), Gareth Simmons (Strategic Project Director) and Paul Brookes (Programme Director – History Centre) gave a presentation on the History Centre.

The Leader requested that the presentation be put on the Council Website and that a video of the building also be made available if possible.

The Cabinet thanked the officers involved for all of their time and effort on the project.

96. HCA Funded Acquisitions

Councillor Lowry introduced and David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Mark Brunson (Strategic Project Director) and James Watt (Head of Land and Property) presented an item on Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funded Acquisitions.

Plans for sites were outlined. These sites included Colin Campbell Court and five sites between Bath Street and Martin Street.

The Cabinet thanked officers for their work on the negotiations which would result in splendid transformations in the City Centre.

97. British Land - Drake Circus Leisure

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

98. **Revitalisation of Charles Cross**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced and Graham Naylor (Librarian), Gareth Simmons (Strategic Project Director), James Watt (Head of Land and Property), Mark Brunson (Strategic Project Director) and David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development) presented an item on the revitalisation of Charles Cross.

Cabinet was told about the history of the Church and the plans for the Church. Including –

- continuing to light up the church at night;
- sewing of wild poppies;
- placement of monoliths with simple explanations of the history of the monument;
- Reinstatement of talks and trails about the monument;
- new signs incorporating a poppy;
- repair works to make the structure sound;
- commissioning an artist to interpret the loss of 1178 civilian deaths in the Blitz.

Cabinet thanked the officers for their work on the project, in particular Graham Naylor for bringing the History alive during the presentation of the item.

99. **Property Acquisitions - Strategic City Sites**

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) introduced the item and Mark Brunson (Head of Strategic Development Projects) alongside John Kinsey, Mike Easton and Matt Lederer from JLL Consultants present plans for the development of the site of the former Quality Inn Hotel.

The Leader stressed that it was vital that an exceptional offer was available in time for the 2020 celebrations.

100. **Asset Investment Fund**

Councillor Lowry introduced and James Watt (Head of Land and Property), Mark Brunson (Head of Strategic Development Projects) and David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development) presented and item on the Asset Investment Fund.

Councillor Lowry advised that £25 million had been ring fenced in the Council's capital budget for investment in commercial property related activities.

The Cabinet thanked the officers.

101. **Social Value and Sustainability Policy**

Councillor Penberthy introduced and Sarah Gooding (Policy and Performance Assistant) presented the Social Value and Sustainability Policy.

Councillor Penberthy outlined the plan for the policy to become part of the everyday considerations of all officers and that training would be made available in order to make this culture change possible.

The Leader requested that attempts be made to turn the policy into an article suitable for distribution and to look for awards relating to the subject matter.

Agreed to adopt the Social Value and Sustainability Policy.

The Leader thanked the officers for the report.

102. **ICT Strategy**

Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services) introduced and Les Allen (Head of Transformation Programme) and Giles Letheren (Delt Operations Manager) presented the ICT Strategy.

The strategy had been written in plain English and was easy to read and understand even by those who were not technically minded.

Agreed to endorse the ICT Strategy.

103. **Pledges Sign Off**

The Leader presented a report on the 50 Pledges of the Administration.

He is advised that 48 pledges had been completed and the remaining two would be completed by the following week.

The Leader ran through the pledges that had been achieved.

The Leader thanked his Cabinet Members, the Council's Management teams and every officer of the Council for all the hard work they do on a daily basis.