

Cabinet

Tuesday 17 September 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor Evans OBE, in the Chair.

Councillor Pete Smith, Vice Chair.

Councillors Coker, Dann, Haydon, Laing, Lowry, Penberthy, Jon Taylor and Kate Taylor.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.50 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.

34. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

35. **Minutes**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

36. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions by members of the public.

37. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

38. **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader, Councillor Evans OBE made the following announcements –

- on 27 July 2019, a letter had been written to the City's MPs, following a resolution made by the City Council regarding the scrapping of the free TV licences for people aged over 75; the letter sought to reaffirm the MPs commitment to provide free TV licences; one response had been received from Mr Luke Pollard, MP in which he reaffirmed his commitment to providing free TV licences; responses were awaited from Mr Gary Streeter, MP and Mr Johnny Mercer, MP; a letter had also been written to the Government on this matter;

- as part of the High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme, the Council would be able to apply, along with 69 other towns/cities, for a share of the £95m fund which would be used to revive historic high streets; thanks were extended to the officers involved in this scheme;
- it had been a great weekend in the City with many events being held which included the Respect Festival which was celebrating its 21st birthday, the seafood festival, the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park launch and the Star Awards which celebrated the achievements of Plymouth City Council employees;
- work was due to commence on site for Phase II of Oceansgate; a ground breaking ceremony would be held within the next couple of weeks; even though the construction work had yet to commence, 84% of the units had already been let.

39. **Monthly Activity Round Up**

Councillor Laing, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, made the following announcement –

- the first group of social workers had completed the National Assessment and Accreditation (NAAS) Verification of Practice Skills; this had earned them formal accreditation from the Department for Education as either Approved Child and Family Practitioner, or an Approved Child and Family Practice Supervisor.

Councillor Haydon, Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety, made the following announcements –

- on Thursday, 12 September 2019 Exercise Short Sermon had taken place; the exercise was undertaken on a three yearly basis and involved multi agencies working together; the exercise was designed to test the emergency response at Devonport Naval Base and the Council's Offsite Emergency Plan; the exercise was overseen by regulators who had deemed that it had been completed successfully;
- the Council's Public Protection Service had been successful in prosecuting an individual who had been selling a waste collection service; the individual had been burning, fly tipping and passing on waste to others to dispose of illegally; he had received a Criminal Behaviour Order which prohibited him from working with waste for five years; officers involved in this prosecution were thanked for their work;
- in a case brought by the Trading Standards service, an individual who had been caught with a huge amount of illegal tobacco had been ordered to pay £55,000 (he was also ordered to pay the prosecution costs of £17,500) under the Proceeds of Crime; he was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for two years and ordered to undertake 200 hours' unpaid work; officers involved with this prosecution were thanked for their work.

Councillor Jon Taylor, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation made the following announcement –

- the Government's school funding announcement for 2020/21 had not included additional funding for maintained nursery schools which provided a vital service for children with special educational needs and disability, as well as those disadvantaged children; this was of concern and over the next few months there would be a robust campaign to secure additional funding, as these services would be under real threat, if no new funding was available.

Councillor Peter Smith, Deputy Leader made the following announcement –

- there was just 12 months to go until 16 September 2020 which would mark the 400th anniversary of the historic Mayflower voyage; there would be over 100 Plymouth Mayflower events or activities which included Mayflower Week 2020 (Field Gun Festival, Mayflower ceremony, Royal Marines Rehabilitation Triathlon, Mayflower Muster), Illuminate 2019 and 2020 (light based festival), the opening of the Box in spring 2020, This Land (a production by Theatre Royal Plymouth and the Wampanoag) and 'Settlement' (a large scale installation of public art);
- the Mayflower 400 Community Sparks fund enabled funding for local community projects; Councillors were encouraged to use their community grant fund to also support community projects;
- Mayflower sports week would run in conjunction with Plymouth Argyle, Albion and the Raiders.

Councillor Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene made the following announcements –

- there would be global climate strikes taking place across the world during 20 – 27 September 2019 which were part of the young people's initiative led by Greta Thunberg; following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, other organisations had followed Plymouth's lead which included Plymouth University, Hospital Trust and other Devon Councils; Plymouth City Council would also be supporting the Devon wide climate emergency declaration working with its partners, cross boundaries, to reduce, where possible, the carbon footprint and also in the future lobbying Government;

work undertaken by the Council included the installation of 54 pop-up chargers in nine hubs across residential areas with on street parking, the replacement of 61 diesel vehicles with electric vehicles which would reduce carbon dioxide 1000 tonnes over the life of the vehicle, installation of a solar car port at the Millhouse Park and Ride site and low carbon heating and lighting across the Council's estate;

a city wide action plan would be developed which would cover key themes including power generation, working with businesses, homes, planting more trees, corporate emissions and the people of Plymouth; the people of Plymouth were key in ensuring that they were part of this climate emergency; the climate change survey had been launched on the Council's website and would be open for one month; residents were encouraged to complete the survey;

- Plymouth Sound had been declared as a national marine park following the announcement on the Hoe on 13/14 September 2019; this was the first marine park in the UK and the pioneering work undertaken would be able to be shared with other coastline cities across the UK; the National Marine Park would ensure the future sustainability of Plymouth Sound.

(a video of Plymouth Sound National Marine Park was played).

40. **Completed Pledges Report August 2019**

Cabinet noted the completion of pledge 43 and pledge 65 in August 2019 which brought the total of completed pledges to 53.

Councillor Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance provided an update on the completion of –

- Pledge 65 – ‘the Council will review the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Plymouth Fairness Commission’.

Councillor Jon Taylor, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation provided an update on the completion of -

- Pledge 43 – ‘Plymouth needs more engineers, mathematicians and scientists’; the city had world-class STEM employers; the City Council would look to work with the Plymouth Manufacturers Group and Women in STEM, to increase the number of young people taking STEM subjects at school, college and university; the Council would work with the major manufacturers and large business to provide school children an insight into how factories, manufacturing, digital and creative industries, STEM roles and other major Plymouth employers worked; the Council also supported people to improve their STEM skills throughout their career.

(A video was provided on the ‘Big Splash Event’ which formed part of the Plymouth STEM calendar).

Cabinet noted the pledge update and extended thanks to all officers involved across the local authority for their input.

41. **Brexit Preparation - Risk Management**

The Leader, Councillor Evans, OBE introduced the item on Brexit preparation and risk management.

Following a discussion, Cabinet agreed –

- (1) to endorse the risk management approach to a ‘No Deal’ Brexit;
- (2) the mitigation priorities set out in the Organisational and City risk management logs at Appendices 1 and 2 of this report;
- (3) to note the contents of the Government’s Worse Case Planning Assumptions as of 2 August 2019 paper;
- (4) to thank the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its contribution to date and asked that its members maintain a close watching brief on mitigation plans to minimise risk to the Council and the City.

42. **Update from Scrutiny Management Board**

Councillor Mrs Aspinall (Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board) provided an overview of the work undertaken which included –

- (a) the role of the Scrutiny Management Board was to ensure that the Scrutiny Committees were working well; the Board was still in its infancy but was progressing well;
- (b) the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed to hold a select committee review looking at buses as part of The Bus Service Act 2017 which would include bus services provided within the City, subsidised bus routes, real time information, audio/visual aids on buses (for visual/hearing impaired passengers), low emission buses, Dial a Ride, concessionary fares and how the informal partnership with bus companies would work;
- (c) the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be holding two select committees on the electoral process and gypsy and travellers;
- (d) the Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee was looking to hold two select committees on bullying and attendance and fairer funding for schools;
- (e) the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be holding the following select committees -
 - food justice;
 - mental health;

- dental services;
- end of life care;
- community/urgent care review;

(f) budget scrutiny would be held over two days on 21/22 January 2020.

Cabinet considered that –

- (g) scrutiny should be more flexible in order to be able to scrutinise ‘hot topics’ and to be able to discuss issues rather than receiving reports;
- (h) there had been a lack of scrutiny recommendations being presented to Cabinet;
- (i) the importance of pre-decision scrutiny and its role in developing policies;
- (j) with the reinstatement of the Management Board, items such as Child Poverty could be affectively scrutinised.