

City Council

Monday 22 November 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Beer, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Hendy, Loveridge and Lowry

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at Time Not Specified.

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.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of 13 September 2021 (EGM) and 13 September 2021 City Council meetings were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to amendments made to item 29.

The amendment was to remove 'Councillor Kelly (The Leader) introduced the cross party motion on notice on Keyham. This was seconded by Councillor Evans OBE' and replace with 'Councillor Penberthy introduced the motion on notice on Universal Credit. This was seconded by Councillor Allen'.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

Name	Item Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Dr Buchan	11.b - Ocean Recovery Declaration - 'Motion for the Ocean'	Marine Scientist and Vice Chair on Devon and Severn IFCA	Private Interest

There was also a general dispensation authorised by the Interim Monitoring Officer in respect of item 11.e – Waspi.

3. **Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc**

Members were advised that Councillor Salmon would be the named substitute on Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee.

Council noted the update.

4. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements to members:

- (a) Thanked Dave Walsh for his long service to the Council. Dave retired in September following 43 years and 3 months of service;
- (b) Thanked Dave Milford who had also retired following 32 years of service with the Plymouth RNLI;
- (c) Julian Mouland had won the Lifetime Champion Award at the Safeguarding Adults Board Excellence Awards;
- (d) Plymouth City Council had won Local Authority of the Year award at the 2021 Municipal Journal awards.

The Lord Mayor proposed to suspend the rules of procedure to allow the Director of Public Health, Ruth Harrell to provide an update on COVID-19 to Council and answer any questions that were submitted by Councillors.

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman (Deputy Lord Mayor) seconded the proposal and went to a vote.

Members voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health presented a video to Council.

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council made the following announcements to Council:

- (e) Plymouth City Council had been working alongside other agencies in recovery efforts across Keyham and more broadly across Plymouth. In the immediate aftermath of the shootings, partners from across all agencies had come together with Plymouth City Council, the OPCC and the Police to provide immediate support to all affected and start the long-term work to rebuild confidence of the community and its capacity to recover from this tragedy;
- (f) Collective efforts continued to focus on supporting the local community and ensuring that partners had been able to maximise services and opportunities for the Keyham community and asset victims' families to recover from the violence and tragedy;

- (g) Community policing had been providing a visible neighbourhood presence to provide community reassurance;
- (h) Safer Keyham had been restoring a feeling of safety through physical prevention measures such as improved CCTV;
- (i) Victims support had been commissioning services to provide additional services to support the victims and witnesses and ensure that they received the specialised support required to recover;
- (j) The Songlines campaign had generated over 150 pieces of coverage to date and it is estimated that there had been an audience reach of 28 million people which would have an advertising value equivalent of £1.5 million;
- (k) Plymouth had coverage in the US, Canada, Australia and Spain and had been extensively covered on the BBC including the BBC2 Culture show and BBC Radio 4 Front Row.
- (l) Plymouth had been awarded £1.2 million for two projects as part of the Creative Development Fund which was one of the biggest allocations in the UK. The National Marine Park had been awarded £655,000 to support businesses to make the journey to net zero. Stonehouse Union had been awarded £542,000 to bring the millennium back to life.
- (m) Plymouth City Council had secured a major new inward investment from Marks and Spencer on the Council's land on the former Seaton Barracks site. The new Marks and Spencer foods store would be double the size of the existing store. A new Aldi, café and gym had also been secured. The scheme had been open for public consultation. It was hoped that the new centre would create 100 new jobs and 120 construction jobs.
- (n) Good progress had been made on the new £35 million health hub in the City Centre working with the CCG and NHS England. Good response had been received from the public consultation and the scheme would move forward to Planning.

Councillor Jonathan Drear, Cabinet Member for Transport made the following announcements to Council:

- (o) Plymouth City Council had been trialling artificial intelligence to supplement the Highways Safety Inspections, this would help identify defective road surfacing, deteriorated road markings, footway and road signage conditions;

- (p) Three new road crossings had been constructed across the city at Furzahatt Road, Larkham Lane and Miller Way. 17 sites near Plymouth schools would receive a safety signage upgrade which would include specialist signs with high intensity amber warning lights;
- (q) The trials for Vehicle Free schools was proving successful;
- (r) Plymouth City Council highways continued working with Devon County Council to enable a Carbon Footprint Calculation for Highways Activities which would feed into the Corporate carbon reduction plan;
- (s) 13,000 tonnes of salt had been stocked in readiness for adverse weather conditions with six gritters on standby;
- (t) Footbridges across the city had been refurbished with two of them being fully completed at Station Road Cottles and Providence, a further 6 were near completion, with the remaining 12 being completed next year;
- (u) Subways across the city were being refurbished and the subways at Glen Road and North Cross had been completed. The Highways team had been working on the subways at Crownhill and work included concrete repairs, vegetation clearance, drainage works, resurfacing and repainting;
- (v) Maintenance work had been planned on culverts which were done on a quarterly and 6 monthly basis which included vegetation clearance, jet washing and fixing timber fences;
- (w) Investigatory surveys had been completed for Laira Bridge and works planned included masonry repairs and the installation of stainless steel wall ties to prevent further deterioration;
- (x) Principle inspection of all HMPE tunnels within the city had been conducted;
- (y) The Highways team had also been working on the stabilisation of the George Lane hedge bank and rock/soil nails and galvanised mesh had been installed.

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman, Cabinet member for Environment and Street Scene made the following announcements to Council:

- (z) A trial of alternative thermal foam weed treatment had been scheduled for January which would help inform the council's plan on reducing chemical treatments on Plymouths streets in future years.

- (aa) Despite some disruption to garden waste collection, there had been a 44% increase in tonnage collected which was equivalent to 7,000 tonnes. Recycling rates had increased in quarter 1 and 2 which was an increase in previous years.

Councillor John Riley, Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety made an announcement on:

- (bb) On the 25th November the Taxi Licensing Policy would be issued for a 12 week public consultation and members as well as Plymouth residents were encouraged to take part in the consultation.

Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly, Cabinet Member for Home and Communities announced:

- (cc) At the 2021 Abercrombie Awards Primrose Park in Whiteleigh had won best new development which had been developed in partnership with Plymouth Community Homes;
- (dd) Plymouth City Council had also won the judges special award for the recladding of the Devonport towers which was supported by officers in Community Connections and Strategic Planning;
- (ee) Pilgrim Court in How street had won the best small development award. This scheme transformed a derelict site in partnership with BCHA and had created 12 one bedroom flats for adults with complex and varied disability needs including four wheelchair adaptable units;

Councillor Mark Deacon, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport announced:

- (ff) Library opening times had been increased by 18 hours in total for the week. Libraries at Crownhill and Southway had been opened for an additional day;
- (gg) Library activities had been restarted where it had been safe to do so, children's activities including rhyme times and story times had recommenced. Book groups for vulnerable adults had also recommenced;
- (hh) 5,000 people had attended the annual bonfire event. The event had originally been created due to poor community safety due to backyard firework displays. It was also one of the busiest times of the year for the fire and ambulance services. Plymouth City Council had heard from its residents with regard to carbon emissions and would be looking at ways to reduce this;

- (ii) British Elite Junior Diving Championship had been the first major event held at the Life Centre since its refurbishment work and had been a great success;
- (jj) 5,000 people had attended the Christmas light switch on event in the City Centre, the event had been dedicated to NHS.

5. **Questions by the Public**

Question submitted by Mr Rodger Gregg Black	
<p>Question: Residents of Yeo Close in Efford are experiencing a lot of Anti-Social Behaviour. Does the Council have any plans to tackle this?</p>	<p>Answer: Police have increased patrols in this area, additionally youth support teams have engaged in youth outreach in the locality. This engagement will continue at key times. We are also trying to increase the provision of our youth centres in efforts to engage young people, in the locality in more planned activities. Plymouth Argyle (PL Kicks) will also be starting a programme of works in the area. In response to the issues reported, an Environmental Visual Audit was conducted. This was to assess the area and to consider any practical steps to increase feelings of safety in this particular location. This led to the conclusion that CCTV could be used. It was determined that the area would be suitable and has passed the legality test that may enable CCTV to be placed in the area. Next steps will be a visit to ensure the infrastructure is able to support this recommendation. Local Cllrs have requested a meeting to discuss issues (25/10/21). This is being planned by Community Connections Officers and will involve CCTV, Community Connections Officers, Police partners, Youth Services and any other agency who can assist with this issue.</p>

Question submitted by Alice Stephens.

<p>Question: I'm Alice, I'm a youth worker for the Mutley/Greenbank Trust and I want to know what council-owned buildings in the Mutley/Greenbank area are available for youth provision and who do we contact about getting one.</p>	<p>Answer: The Council does not have any suitable premises available in the Mutley/Greenbank area for youth provision, however it may be possible to co-locate with other community and voluntary sector organisation in this locality and would suggest that contact be made through Plymouth Octopus Project Children and Young Peoples Network for further discussion with partners.</p>
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6. **Gambling Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy)**

Councillor John Riley introduced the Gambling Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy). This was seconded by Councillor Glenn Jordan.

Council agreed to adopt the proposed Gambling Act Statement of Principles contained in Appendix B with effect from 31 January 2022.

For (52)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Mrs Watkin, Wheeler and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (0)

Abstain/Not present (5)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry and Neil.

7. **City Council meeting dates 2022 - 23**

Councillor John Riley introduced the City Council meeting dates 2022 – 23.

Following debate, Council noted City Council meeting dates 2022 – 23.

8. **Finance and Capital Monitoring Report September 2021**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader of the Council) introduced the Finance and Capital Monitoring Report September 2021. This was seconded by Councillor Patrick Nicholson.

Following debate, with contributions from Councillors Dann and Mrs Aspinall, Council agreed to:

1. Note the current revenue monitoring position;
2. Approve the revision of the Capital Budget 2021-2026 to £647.591m (as shown in Section C Table 1).

For (52)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Mrs Watkin, Wheeler and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (0)

Abstain/Not present (5)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry and Neil.

9. **Appointment of the Monitoring Officer (Head of Legal Services) (To Follow)**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader of the Council) introduced the Appointment of the Monitoring Officer (Head of Legal Services) report. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Aspinall.

Following debate, Council agreed that Emma Jackman was confirmed as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from the date she commences employment with the Council.

For (52)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Mrs Watkin, Wheeler and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (0)

Abstain/Not present (5)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry and Neil.

10. **Motions on notice**

11. **Addressing the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis**

Councillor Dann introduced the cross party motion on notice on addressing the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Bridgeman.

Following a discussion, with contributions from Councillor Wheeler, Smith, Bingley, Penberthy and Mrs Aspinall.

For (52)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Mrs Watkin, Wheeler and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (0)

Abstain/Not present (5)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry and Neil.

12. **Ocean Recovery Declaration - 'Motion for the Ocean'**

Councillor Dr Buchan introduced the motion on Ocean Recovery Declaration – 'Motion for the Ocean'. This was seconded by Councillor Evans OBE.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Kelly (The Leader), and seconded by Councillor Mrs Bridgeman (Deputy Lord Mayor).

The amendment was proposed as follows:

Ocean Recovery Declaration – 'Motion for the Ocean'

Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK's first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound, champions of sustainable fishing industry and advocates for good marine management. In 2019 we unanimously declared a climate emergency. This Council recognises the role of the ocean in climate regulation.

2021 is the first year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The UK has just hosted COP26 in Glasgow and in the summer the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too, which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is

caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean, causing sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure in the world, including Plymouth. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality impacts seafood and prevents safe bathing.

And yet the ocean is a place of incredible importance for people, providing food, energy, connections from one nation to another, and regulating the climate system which is so threatened by human activity. We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean.

Plymouth Sound is at the heart of our economy, and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Urgent action is needed to recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including capturing and storing carbon through coastal salt marshes and seagrass beds, regulating our climate, supporting a sustainable and equitable blue economy, with equitable access to clean, safe recreation and nature experience for happy, healthy communities. Action is needed at all levels, from national and local government, down to individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), and individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding a relationship with the ocean that is healthy for people and nature).

~~This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.~~

This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery. We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. The Leader to report to Full Council, in line with the development of the National Marine Park, **and following the scheduled work of the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2021** on the actions and projects that will continue and improve ocean recovery in Plymouth Sound.
2. **This report will take into account:**
 - a. **Consideration** of the impact on ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning ocean recovery with climate emergency plans.
 - b. **Ensuring** that the Local Plan supports ocean recovery as part of the National Marine Park planning considerations, and through the existing TECF partnership.
 - c. **Working** with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of Devon & Severn IFCA.
 - d. **Growing** ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the city, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and **promoting** sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences, ensuring these are key outcomes in the development of the NMP.

- e. Creating an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signposting to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
3. The Leader to write to the Prime Minister to call on the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
 - b. Incorporating social scientific evidence and lived experience to improve community co-production of policy and develop more effective and equitable solutions.
 - c. And by listening to marine scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
 - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
 - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
 - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
 - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to consider the amendment.

Following a debate with contributions from Councillors Evans OBE, Nicholson, Dr Buchan, Dann, Smith, Penberthy, Jordan, Singh, Corvid and Kelly the motion was lost.

For (26)

Councillors Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Burden, Carlyle, Collins, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Harrison, Hulme, James, Jordan, Kelly, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stoneman, Wakeham and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (27)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Churchill, Coker, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Mrs Johnson, Laing, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Vincent, Mrs Watkin and Wheeler

Abstain/Not present (4)

Councillor Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry and Neil.

Following a debate the motion was carried.

For (27)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Churchill, Coker, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Mrs Johnson, Laing, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Vincent, Mrs Watkin and Wheeler

Abstain (25)

Councillors Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Burden, Carlyle, Collins, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Harrison, Hulme, James, Jordan, Kelly, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stoneman, and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Not present (5)

Councillor Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry, Neil and Wakeham

13. **Opposing Routine Discharges of Raw Sewage in Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats**

Councillor Dann introduced the motion on Opposing Routine Discharges of Raw Sewage in Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats. This was seconded by Councillor Evans OBE.

Following a debate with contributions from Councillors Dr Buchan, Drean, Smith, Kelly, Nicholson, Mrs Aspinall and Evans OBE the motion was carried.

Votes for (51) Councillors

Votes against (0)

Abstain (0)

(Absent/ did not vote (6) Councillors Hendy, Neil, Loveridge, Lowry, Wakeham and the Lord Mayor

14. **Traffic Speed on the A38 Parkway**

Councillor Mrs Johnson introduced the Traffic Speed on the A38 Parkway motion. This was seconded by Councillor Churchill.

Following a debate with contributions from Councillors Drean, Nicholson, Ian Bowyer, Coker, Kelly, Haydon, Bingley, Singh Corvid and Laing the motion was carried.

Votes for (27)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Churchill, Coker, Corvid, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Mrs Johnson, Laing, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tuffin, Vincent, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (24)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Bingley, Burden, Carlyle, Collins, Deacon, Downie, Dreaan, Harrison, Hulme, James, Jordan, Kelly, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith and Stoneman.

Absent/ did not vote (6)

Councillors Hendy, Loveridge, Lowry, Neil, Wakeham, the Lord Mayor.

15. **Waspi**

Councillor Laing introduced the Waspi motion on notice. This was seconded by Councillor Cresswell.

Following a debate with contributions from Councillors Tuffin, Dr Mahony and Singh the motion was carried.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman (DLM), Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Dreaan, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Dr Mahony, Morris, McDonald, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wheeler and Councillor Mrs Beer (LM).

Against (0)

Abstain/Not present (8)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hendy, James, Loveridge, Lowry, Neil, Mrs Watkin and Wakeham

16. **Questions by Councillors**

	From	To	Subject
I	Councillor Corvid	The Leader	The Leader invited people to send in pictures of leaves on the pavements which would be dangerous and slippery. I have sent pictures in, but they have still not been picked up. Kingsley road, Central Park and Ford Park Avenue in particular had been reported. When are the leaves going to be removed to make it safe?

	<p>Response: Leaves would be picked up in line with normal casework. I had forwarded on your email to the councillor casework team and it was stated they could be swept as soon as possible.</p> <p>Supplementary: There had been an increase in the area of people being injured, can the leader reassure us that this would be addressed as a priority.</p> <p>Leader: The Facebook post that I created asking for people to contact me was aimed at Compton ward residents, however the post went on to say, or contact Plymouth city council directly.</p>		
2	Councillor Patel	Councillor Drean	<p>I am pleased to report that flood sites within my ward have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved. Some sites have been flooded for many years and people are frustrated with the lack of long term positive action.</p> <p>I myself have reported one site within my ward three times in a month and was told three times it had been fixed, only for it to flood next time it rained.</p> <p>Can I ask for a process to be put in place for a robust monitoring plan so that areas consistently reported are looked at in greater detail?</p>
	<p>Response: Councillor Drean requested further details of that particular casework in order to look more in depth at what actions took place. Please provide further detail. Hotspots are regularly checked to see if it is going to be a problem. Councillor Drean will check to see if that particular spot is on the hotspot list.</p>		
3	Councillor Murphy	Councillor Deacon	<p>Once again, I have to question the lack of respect this administration has shown to our armed forces community. At the last full Council meeting I asked why the Belvedere Memorial Garden was used as a bar. Why have no poppies been put in place across the city to remember our fallen armed forces servicemen and women? This year would mark the 100th anniversary of Royal British Legion and the 80 anniversary of the Plymouth Blitz.</p>
	<p>Response: Councillor Deacon requested Councillor Murphy to send an email and the points raised would be looked into.</p>		
4	Councillor Derrick	The Leader	<p>Councillor Rodger Croad had made some highly insensitive comments in his role as Chair of The Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel. Councillor Croad made</p>

			<p>an ill judged comment on the use of firearms in the city. Many people are suffering from this tragedy and I ask if you would stand with the people of Plymouth and call out those remarks as senseless and harmful. I also ask that our representatives on the Panel pass our comments on those remarks to the Chair.</p>
	<p>Response: I was made aware of the remarks from Councillor Croad. Councillor Croad is not a part of Plymouth City Council but the remarks he made were made at the Police and Crime Panel which he chairs in Plymouth.</p> <p>Councillor Croad has apologised for his comments and MP Luke Pollard has written to Councillor Croad to issue a further apology and requested him to visit Keyham.</p> <p>Councillor Croad's comments were inappropriate and I'm sure Councillor Croad reflected on them and is not proud of them. I suggest to Councillor Derrick that he writes to Councillor Croad to express his dissatisfaction of those comments.</p>		
5	Councillor Singh	Councillor Riley	<p>Is there, or would there be a situation where the Council would make a Key or Delegated Decision without it being recorded or published on the website or in writing.</p>
	<p>Response: Councillor Dr Mahony advised that he would hope not and that Decisions should be publicised.</p> <p>Supplementary: Why was the Key Delegated Decision taken by Councillor Lowry in June 2020 not recorded or published on the website of Plymouth City Council?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Dr Mahoney advised that he would look into this and get back to Councillor Singh as to why it wasn't published.</p>		
6	Councillor McDonald	Councillor Drean	<p>There has been a problem with lampposts in the St Peter and Waterfront, Efford and Devonport wards in that they are not lit at night. There is the issue of women walking alone at night and people with sensory deficits. I have learned from Councillors Casework that there have been difficulties in receiving parts from Lisbon and China.</p>
	<p>Response: Councillor Drean advised that out of 30,000 lamp columns across the city, around 190 are out of service. Spares have been an issue but an added problem as been that some of the newer columns</p>		

	<p>purchased have had a fault, these have been returned under guarantee.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council has been looking for spares in the UK and this is where supply problems have been brought to light. Where spares have been provided from the industry we have been looking to get things back online.</p> <p>The team have prioritised a safety list to get those areas lit as a matter of urgency for the safety of residents.</p> <p>Supplementary: Councillor McDonald requested that wards which have low car ownership be prioritised as well.</p> <p>Response: Councillor Drear advised that this would be prioritised and if the casework team are not aware, was happy to have a discussion with Councillor McDonald to receive the details of the problem areas within her ward.</p>		
7	Councillor Collins	Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman	<p>Councillor Collins passed on appreciation to the Street Services team and thought that the recent video in which it showed the Street Services team having fun, showing residents what they do as part of their role was good.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman advised that Councillor Collins comments would be passed onto the Street Services team.</p>
8	Councillor Haydon	Councillor Deacon	<p>Councillor Haydon requested the average waiting times for November 2020 and November 2021 for the contact centre.</p> <p>Councillor Deacon advised that the average waiting times for November 2020 were on average 10 minutes. November 2021 data had not been fully assessed.</p> <p>Supplementary: Councillor Haydon advised Councillor Deacon that the average waiting time had been 2 minutes 13 seconds and for November 2021 the average waiting time had been 2 minutes 24 seconds.</p> <p>Councillor Haydon advised Councillor Deacon that whilst helping a resident of her ward in St Budeaux Library, had waited 58 minutes on 15th November 2021, is this acceptable?</p> <p>Councillor Deacon advised that this was not acceptable and stated that the previous administration cut the customer services department as well as the library service.</p>
9	Councillor Pat Patel	Councillor Deacon	<p>Libraries play an important part of the lives of many residents. During lockdown the suspension of the service had been</p>

			hard felt by all and since the ending of restrictions I expected a short delay of things to return to normal. Can you advise me of when our library service will return in full?
	<p>Since we have reached step four of the government roadmap, the library service have targeted resources to maximise the number of days and hours that library services are open. Libraries will open at the maximum that resources allow us to do. At present the service is able to open between five and seven libraries every day Monday to Friday, with six open on Saturdays. The previous administration, through their redundancy scheme allowed our library staffing levels to fall to such a level that the current administration cannot open the libraries fully.</p> <p>Supplementary: When can we expect the libraries to open at full service?</p> <p>Response: As soon as we can possibly do so, but we are struggling with Labours policy of reducing funding for the Customer and library services.</p>		
10	Councillor Murphy	Councillor Drean	Can you tell me what the policy is for re-lining disabled parking bays?
	<p>Response: Councillor Drean advised that when the team are notified, the team will out and do it.</p> <p>Supplementary: Councillor Murphy advised that she had received an email from the department stating that Plymouth City Council do not re-line disabled parking bays and this is up to the grantee.</p> <p>Response: Councillor Drean requested the details to be forwarded to him and he will investigate and will get back to Councillor Murphy.</p>		
11	Councillor Coker	Councillor Drean	One of the fundamentals to the public bus service is the real time information, do you have a percentage of buses running on time? During the Labour administration this was 91%.
	<p>Response: Councillor Drean advised that he does not have the figure at present as there had been a problem with the system. There had also been a lot of people that have advised that a bus has not arrived when it has been on the schedule board.</p> <p>The team believe they have found where the issues are and are being addressed at the moment. Councillor Drean will provide Councillor Coker with the details he has requested when they are available.</p> <p>Supplementary: Councillor Coker had repeatedly reported issues with this problem. Councillor Coker advised that we have control over what is going on in real time, do we have any plans to utilise this</p>		

	<p>for the benefit of the travelling public as we did through COVID.</p> <p>Response: Councillor Drean advised that arrangements had been arranged with Plymouth Citybus with work still on-going.</p>		
12	Councillor Singh	Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly	<p>I had been given the role by the Leader for the Equalities Working Group. Would Councillor Mrs Pengelly agree that more work has been done in the last few meetings to bring the diverse populations of Plymouth together, including all the initiatives put forward by myself as the Chair in making Plymouth a 'warm and welcoming' City for everybody to enjoy?</p>
	<p>Response: Councillor Mrs Pengelly has done a tremendous amount of work since we had started. The Group started off with Plymouth Argyles Policy on Equality and Diversity and they had spent two years working on the policy. It has been encouraged that all sports clubs within Plymouth have the same sort of policy. A sports conference has been organised for February, all sports clubs within Plymouth had been invited to attend a whole day event.</p> <p>Supplementary: Given the upcoming local election in May, will this equality working group be a priority for the Council and the administration?</p> <p>Response: I will promote that there is a lot of good work going on in these working parties and I appreciate all members that sit on these parties as we all work extremely hard.</p>		
13	Councillor Tuffin	Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman	<p>Would you reconsider the cost of bulky waste items in view of government's reduction of COVID uplift and people losing £20 a week. Would there be a concession for people on benefits?</p>
	<p>Plymouth City Council have recently changed the policy and there are special dispensations for certain people on certain benefits. Councillor Mrs Bridgeman would look into the dispensation and provide a response to Councillor Tuffin.</p>		
14	Councillor Collins	Councillor Mrs Bridgeman	<p>Misinformation has been spread that certain chemicals are being used on all types of weeds. Can you clarify that?</p>
	<p>Plymouth City Council does not spray randomly and we are trialling a new foam. Plymouth City Council does have a legal requirement to remove Japanese Knotweed and at present glyphosate-based herbicides is the only chemical able to get rid of this after several sprays.</p>		
15	Councillor Haydon	Councillor Deacon	<p>Can you tell me how many members of staff were employed in the Contact</p>

			Centre in November 2020 and how many are now employed under the Conservative administration?
	<p>Response: Councillor Deacon advised that he does not have the figures but that Labour had cut the budget and made some staff redundant.</p> <p>Supplement: In November 2020 we had 21 members of staff in the Contact Centre and under a Conservative controlled administration this had lowered to 18. Would you agree with me Councillor Deacon, that it is the Conservative administration that is cutting the service and not the Labour administration?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Deacon advised that we are working under a Labour budget and this is why customer service waiting times are going up.</p>		
16	Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall	Councillor Riley	How many private hire and Hackney Carriage licenses have been handed back?
	<p>Response: In 2019 there were 1200 cabs in the city with around 360 Hackney Carriages. At present there are around 909 in total with 309 being Hackney carriages and the rest private hire. Councillor Riley would need to look into more detail with regards to the figures of licenses held and those actually on the road.</p> <p>Supplementary: What is Plymouth City Council doing to increase those numbers again considering the night time economy and public safety. Can you clarify if we are reducing the number of people that can go through to sit their relevant exams to become a taxi driver because of COVID lessons?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Riley acknowledged the supplementary and expressed concern in relation to the night-time economy and this has been impacted due to a shortage of taxi's.</p> <p>This Council has progressed the Taxi Licensing policy which seeks to remove the cap on licenses and introducing a livery system to install pride . It was also recognised that the taxi shortage is a national situation.</p>		
17	Councillor Stoneman	Councillor Deacon	Following the one stop closure to residents during COVID, when will this service be open again for residents to use?
	<p>Response: Plymouth City Council would be trialling the service reopening at central library over a period of 8 weeks from December to January.</p>		

End time – 20.14pm

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