

Portsmouth City Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Tuesday 19 March 2013 at 2.00 pm and all Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the following business:-

Agenda

1 Members' Interests

2 To approve as a correct record the Minutes of

- the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2013 (set out on pages 9 to 38).

3 To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence.

4 a. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24.

b. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25.

5 Appointments

6 Urgent Business - To receive and consider any urgent and important business from Members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order No 26.

7 Recommendations from Cabinet - 4 March 2013

To receive and consider the attached recommendations of the Cabinet held on 4 March 2013 in respect of the following matters, the reports for which are also attached:

- Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2013-18
- Portchester Castle to Emsworth Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy - Adoption of Final Strategy
- Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) Implementation Plan 2013/14
- Treasury Management Policy for 2013/14 (this report has also presented (for information only) to the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee)

8 Recommendations from Housing Cabinet - 12 March 2013

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Housing Portfolio holder meeting held on 12 March 2013 (to follow) in respect of the below matter, the report for which is attached:

- Delivering Replacement Housing Programme

9 Recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee - 14 March 2013

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Committee held on 14 March 2013 (to follow) in respect of the following matters, the reports for which are attached:

- The appointment of Independent Persons for the Municipal years 2013 to 2016
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Board Constitution

10 Recommendations from Employment Committee - 19 February 2013

To receive and consider the attached recommendation (and cover report) of the Committee held on 19 February 2013 in respect of the Pay Policy Statement, which has been placed in the Group Rooms, is on the Web site via the provided link and is available on request:

- Pay Policy Statement

11 Notices of Motion

(a) Proposed by Councillor Jason Fazackarley Seconded by Councillor Sandra Stockdale

Each year an estimated 10,000 ex-racing greyhounds are 'unaccounted' for - puppies that don't make the grade, dogs that sustain injuries, are pregnant or unable to find homes, most are less than five years old.

Many of these dogs are disposed of in the most 'economical' way - by bolt gun.

Until fairly recently there existed a Greyhound Stadium in Portsmouth and it is right that concern is expressed for the welfare of the dogs that were used at that venue. Raising concerns for these dogs, as well as others across the UK, can be highlighted by the passing of this motion and representation being made to DEFRA and central government.

Portsmouth City Council calls on the government to outlaw the use of bolt pistols to kill greyhounds.

Under existing UK legislation, any person can use a bolt gun to destroy a greyhound, if they are the legal owner. Attempted destruction of greyhounds by bolt has resulted in innocent dogs being left to suffer in agony for hours, before being found and taken to a veterinary surgery to be finally put to sleep by lethal injection.

These dogs should at the very least be entitled to a humane death. Destruction of greyhounds should only be performed by use of intravenous euthanasia, administered by qualified veterinary surgeons.

Following the controversial use of bolt guns by RSPCA inspectors a few years ago, the RSPCA requested the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) comment on their review of its 2004 euthanasia rules and guidelines. In April 2010 the RCVS announced that use of the captive bolt guns on dogs was inappropriate

DEFRA have the power to end this cruel practice so we are calling on them to immediately abolish the use of captive bolt guns to destroy greyhounds in the UK.

**(b) Proposed by Councillor Ken Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor John Ferrett**

Council Notes –

- A number of construction companies have been challenged about supporting the existence of and subscribing to construction industry 'blacklists',
- These 'blacklists' detail covertly and potentially illegally gathered information on trade union members in the construction industry.
- The construction industry blacklist was collated by the Consulting Association (a private consultancy) and was then provided at a cost to construction companies as they sought to recruit/avoid new workers.
- The construction unions are leading a national campaign aimed at forcing those who have been involved in blacklisting to apologise and provide compensation to those who have found it impossible to work in construction as a result of this blacklisting.
- The Information Commissioner has investigated and taken action against the Consulting Association for this practice.
- The Information Commissioner has also taken enforcement action against a number of construction companies based on the evidence recovered from the Consulting Association.

Council Believes –

- Blacklisting is a malicious and unacceptable practice and cannot be condoned.
- Construction workers should be free to belong to a Trade Union and raise legitimate safety concerns in what is a hazardous industry.
- Owing to the concentration of construction activity in and around cities such as Portsmouth, significant numbers of our residents have undoubtedly been disadvantaged by this practice
- Blacklisting has ruined careers and lives, not only of construction workers but also those of their families.

Council Resolves –

- To support the trade union campaign for justice for those affected by blacklisting.

**(c) Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones**

As public bodies, local authorities have both a moral and a legal duty to respond to the wishes of their residents. Countless examples from around the country make clear that this does not always happen in practice, but nevertheless it should.

While acknowledge its own shortcomings, this council nevertheless considers consulting and engaging with the public to be of paramount importance. It recognises the potential new technology provides to simplify communication with the people of the city.

YouChoose is a free-to-use consultation tool provided by YouGov, initially for use by the London Borough of Redbridge, which has been adopted by around 50 other authorities nationwide and has a track record of eliciting high levels of responses from the public.

This council considers it worthwhile to acquire this (or similar) software and directs officers to use it as the basis for a consultation in advance of the 2014/15 budget meeting.

There is a small charge of about £1000 for the YouChoose data tables and any rival products are likely to give rise to a similar bill. This should be more than offset by savings that can be made to more traditional forms of consultation, but if there is any net cost it should be met from reserves.

**12 Forward Plan Omission Report
Portsmouth Football Club – Financial Loan Support to
Portsmouth Supporters’ Trust (PST)**

To note in accordance with the Constitution that due to the urgent decision that needed to be taken at the Cabinet meeting on 27 February 2013, in relation to entering into a loan facility agreement (subject to conditions) with the Portsmouth Supporters Trust (PST) to enable PST to make a bid to acquire the assets and business of Portsmouth Football Club (the Club), it was consequently not possible to include the item within the normal forward plan process and the usual omission procedure therefore had to be followed.

13 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17.

David Williams
Chief Executive

Please note that agenda, reports and minutes are available to view on line on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Full Council meetings are digitally recorded, audio only.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
11 March 2013