

Portsmouth City Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Tuesday 9 July 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 meeting held on 11 June 2013 (pages 69 to 75),

Also the minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2013, approved by the Council at the last meeting, be amended in the following respect to correct an inaccuracy subsequently discovered, namely to record the fact that Councillor Phil Smith replaced Councillor Caroline Scott as a Full member of the Langstone Harbour Board, with Councillor Scott taking Councillor Smith's place on the Board as a Standing Deputy (minute 51 refers).

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 Governance & Audit & Standards Committee - 27 June 2013

To consider the attached reports and recommendations in respect of the following.

- Modification to the Petitions Scheme
- Health Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

8 Recommendations from Employment Committee - 18 June 2013

To consider the attached recommendation in respect of the following.

- Approval of Offer Package in respect of Director of Public Health Role.

9 Notices of Motion

(a) Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

Portsmouth City Council acknowledges that its ability to provide high quality services to residents of the City has been limited by financial constraints. It recognises that these result, in large part, from financial crises and instability which have affected this country for the last six years.

Recognising that financial stability is necessary if services to the community are to be funded to former levels, the City Council supports the principle of a Financial Transactions Tax being imposed on all transactions above an agreed threshold. Such a tax should be designed to encourage long term investment, be a disincentive to short term financial movements and reduce exchange rate volatility.

The Portsmouth City Council believes that the tax needs to be set at a rate which achieves these objectives but maintains the strength of the UK financial services sector. The tax should therefore be developed within the context of international agreements such as the EU, the EEA and the IMF.

The City Council resolves that the Leader of the City Council writes to the Prime Minister and deputy Prime Minister to set out our views on this issue.

(b) Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

The City Council notes the recent unsuccessful City of Culture bid. Furthermore, the Council also notes the recently established practice of congratulating Cabinet Members for perceived success in delivering objectives. Therefore, in the spirit of consistency, the Council feel it only appropriate to express disappointment at the failure of Councillor Lee Hunt, the Cabinet Member for Culture, to deliver a successful outcome to the City of Culture bid.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Steve Wemyss Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

This City Council recognises that while many staff providing medical care in Portsmouth give exemplary service to their patients, systemic problems including communication failures can, lead to poor patient care and even death.

The Francis report has provided evidence that this has occurred elsewhere in the country.

This City Council requests the Health Overview Scrutiny Panel to

Investigate whether there have been communication errors in Portsmouth Hospitals and determine if relevant protocols of the local NHS Trust have been adhered to, and if they are likely to be effective.

**(d) Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor Ken Ferrett**

"Under occupation of Social Housing" commonly known as the "Bedroom Tax",

"The decision by Central Government to implement a "bedroom tax" for those in social housing has failed to guarantee affected tenants an affordable alternative. Given this, the tax appears to be not only cruel, but also counter-productive. Indeed, if the consequence of tenants running up arrears is that they face eviction, then the council may well face higher costs rehousing those who are displaced by the bedroom tax. Therefore, while the tax remains in place the council should note:

The mover of the motion intends to submit to the Cabinet, as the appropriate decision making body, a proposal to investigate all of the social and financial implications of the following -

- 1) Adopt a No Eviction policy for arrears that are attributable to the bedroom tax.
- 2) When all other avenues have been explored and transfer is the only option, yet there are no suitable properties to transfer to, the council should employ all reasonable methods, other than eviction, to seek payment of arrears.
- 3) Ensure that the Discretionary Housing Fund can meet the needs of all those who do not have the ability to pay.
- 4) Ensure that all those affected by the Bedroom Tax are aware of, and have access to free independent advice.
- 5) Encourages all partner Housing Associations to put similar policies in place.
- 6) Demand that the government review the operation of the Bedroom Tax to deal with the increasing number of anomalies arising from its operation, and to ensure that local taxpayers do not continue to be penalised by the funding arrangements."

The Council is asked to endorse the principles contained within the mover's proposal"

10 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17.

11 Date of 2014 Mayor Making/Annual Council meeting

At the last Annual Council meeting, it was agreed to set the date of the 2014 Mayor making meeting for 10 June 2014, subject to further notification when the date of the next European Elections has been set, as it is almost certain that the Local Elections that year will be held on the same date as the European Elections.

The Council of the European Union has subsequently recently decided to bring forward the next European Elections so that they will now be held on 22 May. The British Government has just laid a draft Order before Parliament which if approved and the Order is made will move the date of the local elections in 2014 from 1st May to 22nd May. The Order must be approved and made by 31 October 2013.

On the assumption that the Local elections will be held on 22 May, the earliest date on which the Annual Council meeting can be held to comply with the necessary due notice of public meetings requirements, is Tuesday 3 June 2014, with the agenda being published on Friday 23 May.

The Council is consequently asked to determine whether it wishes the Mayor making/Annual Council meeting to take place on either 3 June or 10 June 2014.

David Williams
Chief Executive

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Full Council meetings are digitally recorded, audio only.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
1 July 2013