

Portsmouth City Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on Tuesday, 15 July 2014 at 2.05 pm (or immediately following the conclusion of the Extraordinary Council meeting if later) 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** (Pages 1 - 18)
 - the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2014 and
 - the Adjourned Meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2014
- 3 **To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence.**
- 4 **Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24.**
- 5 **Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25.**
- 6 **Appointments**
- 7 **Urgent Business - To receive and consider any urgent and important business from Members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order No 26.**
- 8 **Hampshire Community Bank - Cabinet Recommendation 10 July 2014** (Pages 19 - 36)

To receive and consider the attached report of the Cabinet held on 10 July, the recommendations for which will follow.
- 9 **Notice of Motion Referral re publication of reports (Complaints procedures) - Governance & Audit & Standards Committee Recommendation 27 June 2014** (Pages 37 - 40)

To receive and consider the recommendations below of the Committee held on 27 June, the report for which is attached.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note that the Committee

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined [in the report attached to the Council agenda] the investigation report is not published in whole, or in part, but that the Council's procedure for the assessment

investigation and determination of complaints is amended to allow a redacted copy of the investigators report to be provided to the complainant at the same time that it is provided to the councillor who is the subject of the complaint.

10 Filming, photographing and recording of public meetings of the Council - Governance & Audit & Standards Committee Recommendation 27 June 2014 (Pages 41 - 46)

To receive and consider the recommendation of the Committee held on 27 June, the report for which is attached.

RESOLVED that Governance & Audit & Standards Committee recommend that Council adopts the recommendations set out in item 2 of the report.

11 Scrutiny Report - Scrutiny Management Panel Recommendation 4 July 2014 (Pages 47 - 52)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Panel held on 4 July, the report for which is attached.

RESOLVED that the Panel recommends to Council that

- (1) the report be noted and the work done by the panels be acknowledged; and**
- (2) an extra recommendation be added to the report as follows - "thanks be formally recorded to all those members of the public, witnesses and officers who contributed to the reviews and to democratic services officers who supported the panels"**

12 Review of Certain Special Responsibility Allowances for Members (Pages 53 - 56)

To receive and consider the recommendations in the attached report by the Chief Executive.

13 Notices of Motion

- (a) Proposed by Councillor Colin Galloway
Seconded by Councillor Julie Swan**

Portsmouth City Council calls upon the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to implement with immediate effect the full Armed Forces Compensation Scheme recommendations that War Disablement Pensions be excluded from being used as a source of Income for Benefits calculations

At present, a Veteran injured during their service in the Armed Forces, and who receives a War Disablement Pension which is intended to raise the living standard of that Veteran, can currently receive a £10 per week disregard when receiving benefits.

This Council recognises the sacrifice which Veterans have

undertaken for their Country, and agrees that these Veterans should be attributed with a 100% disregard when being assessed for benefits, yet the DWP still fails to apply it.

There are Veterans in Civilian Street who through no fault of their own, by way of Physical and Mental injuries cannot work in a normal environment and thus rely on the War Disablement Pension as a source of extra income to supplement their daily life.

I believe that the War Disablement Pension should be treated in exactly the same manner as the Disability Living Allowance is currently treated:

**(b) Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason**

Tackling poverty by reducing dependency

Council welcomes the fact that the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme - the scheme that gives money to some of the most vulnerable people in society - has been overseen by local councils across the country, rather than the DWP.

Council opposes the removal of funding for this scheme from April 2015.

Council welcomes the work already done by officers on a replacement. It believes such a replacement should be brought in for at least no more cost than now.

Council also recognises that many people in our city are forced to use payday loan and similar companies, such as Wonga and Provident. It believes this is wrong and applauds the work done so far to mitigate it.

Council endorses the desire of the Church of England to put these firms out of business. As such, it asks the administration to deliver the following as part of any future strategy on this matter:

1. Overseeing a way to enable those in need to get high-quality 'white goods' and similar items without the extortionate interest levels they now often pay.
2. Working with United Savings and Loans and similar organisations to enable people in need to access decent alternatives to payday loans.
3. Bringing to Portsmouth a 'Social Supermarket', similar to one in Barnsley.

Given the desire of all parties on the Council for openness, Council asks the administration to ensure officers update all groups on

request and report on progress at the November Council meeting.

**(c) Proposed by Councillor Paul Godier
Seconded by Councillor Hannah Hockaday**

That the Leader of the Council writes to the relevant Government Minister requesting that more be done around the regulation or banning of legal highs with the aim of seeking to reduce the risk of injury or death to those persons involved in this activity, including people residing in Cities such as Portsmouth.

**(d) Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Neill Young**

This Council welcomes the decision of the new administration to halt the process of out-sourcing the City's Youth Parliament. The council notes the damaging effects of political coercion particularly amongst young people. The council wishes to indicate that close political relationships with Looked After Children, through Associations such as the Youth Parliament are not advised or encouraged. The council will in the future take all reasonable measures to ensure that the political independence of the Youth Parliament is not compromised. This will include retaining the Youth Parliament 'in-house' if that is felt to be the best way to encourage and promote participation amongst young people in our city.

**(e) Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs**

In the light of recent events surrounding former Cllr Mike Hancock, whilst an elected individual of this authority, the Council believes that an urgent review of the city's Safeguarding Procedure should take place to ensure that it is robust enough to protect the public. Members of the public have a right to feel safe when in contact with any elected member of this council.

A citizen of Portsmouth was let down by a former member of this council through his inappropriate actions; the previous Leader of this council for his lack of appropriate actions; and the two liberal democrat members of the investigation sub-committee who sat on the case of a vulnerable resident regards former Cllr M Hancock. This council requests in respect of members facing serious allegations, that the Monitoring Officer prepare a report for the Governance Audit and Standards committee on how the council's current Safeguarding Procedure should be used to best protect the public and members when a complaint is made by a vulnerable constituent.

**(f) Proposed by Councillor Alistair Thompson
Seconded by Councillor John Ferrett**

The City Council is concerned at the conduct of one its former

members' who has admitted to abusing his position of trust. He has admitted to harassing a resident, making repeated unwanted sexual advances and conduct that falls below the standards expected of a Parliamentarian or a member of this Council.

Over the last four years the Council has spent tens of thousands of pounds investigating this matter, both through court and legal fees and officer time - This at a time when the Council is faced with making cuts to front line services.

The Council believes that this is an unsatisfactory situation.

The Council therefore requests the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee to do the following:

1. Instruct officers to prepare a detailed breakdown of the full costs of this affair
2. To write to all members with this information
3. To write to the former member requesting that given this unnecessary burden on the taxpayers of Portsmouth that now he has admitted to these appalling actions he might chose to repay this sum and thus ease the financial burden on residents
4. To consider legal action to reclaim these costs if he refuses.

**(g) Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders
Seconded by Councillor Lynne Stagg**

Council calls on Cabinet to reverse its decision to abandon the pilot crackdown, to be run by 3GS, on dog mess and littering. The problem of litter and dogs mess is one many local residents complain about. With reducing council budgets, finding new ways of tackling problems with minimal cost to local tax payers is important.

Council recognises that, in places like Swansea and Leeds where 3GS operates, the company is making money for local authorities while not clogging up the courts.

In order to minimise costs, the Council requests Cabinet to call on 3GS to conduct its own prosecutions in any pilot, as it does in Leeds. Any short-term shortfall is to be made up from Environment & Community Portfolio reserve with all recouped costs going back there.

**14 Forward Plan Omission Report
The Camber - East Street and Broad Street, Old Portsmouth**

To note in accordance with the Constitution that due to the urgent decision that needed to be taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration & Economic Development on 13 June 2014, 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.

15 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17. (Pages 57 - 60)

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 and Cabinet meetings are digitally recorded, audio only.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
7 July 2014