

Portsmouth City Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on Tuesday, 10 November 2015 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 correct records the Minutes of** (Pages 1 - 16)
 - the Extraordinary and Ordinary Meetings of the Council held on 13 October 2015
- 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.** (Pages 17 - 18)
- 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 Treasury Management Mid Year Review for 2015/16** (Pages 19 - 46)

To receive and consider the attached report of the Cabinet held on 5 November 2015, the recommendations for which will follow.
- 9 Contract Procedure Rules** (Pages 47 - 68)

To receive and consider the attached report of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 6 November 2015, the recommendations for which will follow.
- 10 Review of Members' Code of Conduct and Committee arrangements for assessment, investigation and determination of complaints** (Pages 69 - 80)

To receive and consider the attached report of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 6 November 2015, the recommendations for which will follow.
- 11 Changes to the designated independent person dismissal procedures** (Pages 81 - 94)

To receive and consider the attached report of the Governance & Audit &

Standards Committee held on 6 November 2015, the recommendations for which will follow.

12 Notices of Motion

(a) Housing Bill

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

The City Council believes that good quality housing that families can afford is essential for families.

The City Council regrets the following decisions of the Government that will reduce the amount of good quality social housing for rent to Portsmouth families:

- * The decision that 200,000 out of 275,000 "affordable homes" to be built in this parliament are to be for sale at a price of up to £250,000 and therefore only 75,000 will be built for rent. This means many Portsmouth families will not be able afford these new "affordable homes".
- * That a tax will be imposed by the Government on the rents of council tenants to fund discounts for housing association tenants who are rich enough to buy their properties. Taxing families on the lowest incomes to fund discounts for people who may well be much better off.
- * The cuts to section 106 payments from developers which will see fewer social housing properties offered to residents in the city from new builds.

These actions will mean that there is less money for the provision of new social rented properties and less money available to provide services to tenants such as repairs, estate services officers, youth clubs or play centres that significantly improve the life of families.

The City Council therefore opposes the current Housing Bill going through Parliament and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Communities and the two Portsmouth MPs to ask them to express the City Council's opposition to the Bill and to ask them to make changes to the Bill to support the continued provision of sufficient good quality social rented housing to meet the needs of residents of Portsmouth.

(b) Keeping the Fire Service in Portsmouth strong

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

The City Council notes the proposals from the Hampshire Fire Authority to reduce the number of full sized fire engines in

Portsmouth.

The current provision is 2 full sized fire engines in Cosham and 3 full sized fire engines at Southsea (one being the engine transferred from Copnor when the fire station was closed).

The City Council notes that after the fire in a high rise in Southampton the guidance from the Fire Service is that if there is a fire in a high rise 5 fire engines need to be in attendance for a major fire to be tackled.

The city council notes that the proposals from Hampshire Fire Service will see one of Cosham's downgraded to a medium sized engine with less equipment and Southsea will have 1 Full size, 1 Medium and 1 van, with the current Aerial Ladder platform downgraded to a secondary response due to the changes of crewing.

This would leave only 4 full sized or medium sized fire engines based in the city, and that to fight a fire in a high rise will need fire engines to come into the city from surrounding areas when roads into the city can be very congested.

The proposals again see many more cuts to fire cover in Portsmouth than to any other area in Hampshire.

The City Council therefore opposes the changes to fire cover proposed by the Hampshire Fire Service and asks for them to be reconsidered by the Fire Authority. The City Council asks our representatives on The Fire Authority to reflect the views of the City Council when a decision is made at the Fire Authority.

(c) Tax Credits

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason
Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

The City Council wishes to place on record our thanks to the Bishop of Portsmouth for speaking out in the House of Lords debate about the removal of tax credits from around 15,000 low paid working families in Portsmouth.

The independent Institute of Fiscal Studies has examined the cuts to tax credits along with changes in tax and changes to the Minimum Wage and has concluded that the cuts fall heaviest on the poorest families in the country.

The Council regrets the decision of both the city's MPs not to vote against the cuts to tax credits which will hit many low paid families in Portsmouth and ask them to meet with the Bishop of Portsmouth to understand more of the realities of life for low paid working families in Portsmouth.

(d) Individual Electoral Registration

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

Council notes:

The Electoral Commission's findings in its report into the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) and, in particular, the finding that 1.9 million of the current entries on the electoral register are only being retained under the transitional arrangements from the previous household registration system, which represents 4% of all register entries. The Electoral Commission has previously estimated that the number of people not correctly registered at their current address is around 7.5million across the UK.

The Government want to end the transitional arrangements and fully implement IER 12 months early. However, the Electoral Commission has warned that there is "a risk that a considerable number of eligible voters could be removed from the registers before the significant set of polls scheduled for May 2016 if the transition to IER is brought forward."

Council believes:

That the government's proposals for the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) remain poorly thought out and implemented, running the risk that voters could be disenfranchised as part of this process.

That the end of the transitional arrangements before IER is fully implemented should remain December 2016 as stated in law and should not be brought forward to December 2015.

Council resolves:

To take every possible step to ensure that as many local residents as possible are registered to vote.

For the Council Leader to write to the Government to express our concerns and to ask for additional resources that ensure that local residents are not disenfranchised from the democratic process.

(e) Tax Exempt Vehicles

Proposed by Councillor Steve Hastings
Seconded by Councillor Robert New

There is a loop hole being exploited by some people due to the category that Historic vehicles are currently placed in and local

authority officers and police are unable to remove these cars and vans when they have no tax and MOT due to DVLA guidelines, which tell them in their guideline notes not to remove any vehicle that is in this category.

This council accepts that they should not be charged for their road fund licence but should be taken out of the category that they are in and placed in with all other cars and vans as this causes many problems to residents where multiple vehicles are littered all over their roads in a state of disrepair and seemingly abandoned, dangerous and a blight on the area and often owned by one person.

Any vehicle within standard vehicle category that has no tax and MOT would be removed by Portsmouth City Council officers and notified to DVLA and then they would follow it through with the registered keeper with fines or disposal.

Therefore this council asks that the Chief Executive, and the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transport write a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that Historic vehicles manufactured prior to 1st January 1975 be removed from the DVLA tax exempt classification alongside such vehicles as steam engines, mowing machines, MOD and agricultural vehicles.

This will mean that local authorities and the police will be empowered to remove these vehicles from the highway if they break the law and have no tax and MOT in the same way as any of us with our own cars and vans thus allowing officials to do their job.

13 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17. (Pages 95 - 96)

David Williams
Chief Executive

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

Full Council meetings are digitally recorded.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
2 November 2015