

# *Portsmouth City Council*

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on Tuesday, 9 February 2016 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 (Pages 1 - 22)**
  - the Council meeting held on 8 December 2015
- 3 To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence.**
- 4 The Council has received the following petition -  
"Stop Cuts to Domestic Violence Services"**

"We the undersigned petition the council to : The council budget savings report proposes to cut the specialist in-house domestic abuse service, the Early Intervention Project, from 13 members of staff to 5. We ask councillors to vote against these proposed cuts as they have a public duty to protect the most vulnerable. Of course, in a few years' time, Councillors can change their minds, realise their mistake, reinvest the money. But they will not be able to restore a murdered mother to her children, a daughter to her parents, a friend to her community. These cuts are literally playing with people's lives.

Domestic abuse is estimated to cost £23 billion in the UK each year, including the cost of the criminal justice system, health service, social care and housing. This cost is widely accepted as an under-estimate.

Portsmouth city council are suggesting a cut of £180k to their domestic abuse services as a budget saving. If councillors had consulted with anyone in the sector they would know this is naïve at best and misleading at worse. Cutting EIP will merely transfer the cost onto other service areas in the city.

It is agreed nationally that domestic abuse victims need specialist independent support to live their lives free from violence and abuse".

The Council's rules state that as the petition contains more than 1,000 signatures it will be debated by the Full Council (if the lead petitioner so requests and they do) even if the issue has been considered by the Council

within the last 24 months and it not a matter the Full Council can determine.

1. The petition organiser, Ms S Dillon will be given six minutes to present the petition at the meeting,
2. Followed by any public deputations received on this item.
3. The Administration, via a proposer and seconder, will then present its response to the petition
4. The petition will then be discussed by councillors and the normal rules of debate will apply,

Note - As an Executive (Cabinet) matter, the Full Council is precluded from determining the issues raised in the Petition, although of course the petition can still be debated at the Full Council meeting.

## **5 The Council has received the following petition -**

### **"Save Our Fire Service"**

"Statement: We, the undersigned, oppose the proposed cuts to the Fire Service in Portsmouth and ask our representatives on the Fire Authority to vote against these cuts.

Hampshire Fire Service are proposing to cut the number of 'full-size' fire engines in Southsea from 3 to just 1!

Replacing fully equipped fire engines with smaller vehicles (including a 'van' with just two firefighters!) will put lives at risk. It will leave the crews in Southsea unable to tackle fires in high-rise buildings (over 6 floors) without waiting for fire engines to come from outside Portsmouth, and we all know the problems we have with traffic getting in and out of the city".

The Council's rules state that as the petition contains more than 1,000 signatures it will be debated by the Full Council (if the lead petitioner so requests and they do) even if the issue has been considered by the Council within the last 24 months and it not a matter the Full Council can determine.

1. The petition organiser, Mr T Wood will be given six minutes to present the petition at the meeting,
2. Followed by any public deputations received on this item.
3. The Administration, via a proposer and seconder, will then present its response to the petition
4. The petition will then be discussed by councillors and the normal rules of debate will apply.

**6 Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24 for all items excluding those in respect of items 4 and 5 which are dealt with separately on the agenda.**

**7 Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25. (Pages 23 - 24)**

**8 Appointments**

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

**10 Council Tax Discounts (Pages 25 - 34)**

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 February (to follow), the report for which is attached.

It is proposed that the Budget and Tax Setting and Capital Programme reports and recommendations be taken and debated together on the basis that each item impacts on the other and on the understanding that the Tax Setting Item will be voted on first, followed by the Capital Programme.

**11 Portsmouth City Council - Budget & Council Tax 2016/17 & Medium Term Budget Forecast 2017/18 to 2019/20 (Pages 35 - 94)**

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 February (to follow), the report for which is attached.

**12 Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2020/21 (Pages 95 - 164)**

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 February (to follow), the report for which is attached.

**13 Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - 2021 Approval of interim measures (Pages 165 - 170)**

To receive and consider the attached recommendations of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 15 January, the report of which is also attached.

**14 Notices of Motion**

**(a) Cancelled Meetings**

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

This Council regrets the cancellation of Full Council, Cabinet, Health and Social Care & Culture and Leisure decision making meetings in January. The meetings were all cancelled for 'lack of urgent business' but with local people having immediate important issues they want addressing at Full Council, Cabinet, Health and Social Care & Culture and Leisure meetings it has given the impression that the cancellation of the meetings is a way of ignoring their concerns and stopping them having a say.

This council urges Governance and Audit and Standards Committee to consider an amendment to Standing Orders to require the administration to ensure that all parties on the council are consulted in future before cancellation of any further decision making meetings (following best practice from the likes of the Housing cabinet member and others) and that when 'urgent business' is considered that petitions and other pressing questions and issues from local residents are included in that definition.

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

Council notes the proposal by Govia Thameslink to introduce driver-only trains on services operated by Southern into Portsmouth and elsewhere.

Council agrees with the Commons Transport Committee which said in 2013 that proposals to cut staff on trains 'could make the railway less safe, particularly at night, and deter women and vulnerable users from travelling by train'.

Council supports the RMT's campaign to retain conductors and guards on these long-distance trains and recognises the problems it could create for Portsmouth residents. It asks the Cabinet Member for Transport to write to the CEO of Southern's parent company requesting that this decision be reversed.

**15 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17. (Pages 171 - 172)**

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  
1 February 2016