

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall  
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 12 November 2013 at 2.00 pm

### **Council Members Present**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Lynne Stagg (in the Chair)

#### Councillors

Councillor Margaret Adair	Councillor Hugh Mason
Councillor Michael Andrewes	Councillor Robert New
Councillor Simon Boshier	Councillor Mike Park
Councillor Peter Eddis	Councillor Jim Patey
Councillor Ken Ellcome	Councillor Darron Phillips
Councillor John Ferrett	Councillor Darren Sanders
Councillor Ken Ferrett	Councillor Phil Smith
Councillor Margaret Foster	Councillor Les Stevens
Councillor David Fuller	Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Councillor Aiden Gray	Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Terry Hall	Councillor Alistair Thompson
Councillor Jacqui Hancock	Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Mike Hancock CBE MP	Councillor Steve Wemyss
Councillor David Horne	Councillor Matthew Winnington
Councillor Lee Hunt	Councillor Rob Wood
Councillor Frank Jonas	Councillor Steven Wylie
Councillor Donna Jones	Councillor Neill Young
Councillor Leo Madden	

#### **90. Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor David Horne declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 Revenue Budget, regarding being employed by the Peter Ashley Centre.

Councillor Jim Patey, Patron of Alzheimer's declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 Revenue Budget regarding the Patey Day Centre service proposal.

Councillor John Ferrett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the urgent agenda item on the Notice of Motion regarding the Dockyard as the trade union representative for the Prospect trade union and left the Chamber during discussion thereon.

Councillor Ken Ferrett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item on Notice of Motion regarding the Dockyard as he is employed by BAE and left the Chamber during discussion thereon.

#### **91. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2013**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2013 be approved as a correct record and this was agreed.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

## **92. Communications and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee Mason, Will Purvis, Caroline Scott, April Windebank, Jason Fazackarley and Eleanor Scott.

The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew members' attention to a letter circulated with the green sheet concerning the Battle of the River Plate Memorial and the request for donations in paragraph 3.

The Lord Mayor advised that notice had been received from the Conservative Group that Councillor Lee Mason is to replace Councillor Rob New on the Planning Committee and Councillor Rob New is to replace Councillor Young on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**RESOLVED that these membership changes be agreed accordingly.**

**Finally, the Lord Mayor advised that she had received notification under Standing Order 26 (of which due notice has been given to the other Group Leaders) of a proposed urgent notice of motion concerning Portsmouth Dockyard which it is proposed be taken immediately after agenda item 4, public deputations. The Lord Mayor proposed and the Council subsequently**

**RESOLVED that Standing Order 13 be waived - Order of Business to enable this.**

## **93. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order 24(b)(vi)**

The City Solicitor advised that three deputations had been received from members of the public.

Deputations against elements of the budget were made by Honorary Alderman Alan Burnett, Chairman of the Portsmouth Pensioners' Association, Mr Richard White of Unite and a deputation from Mr Jon woods of UNISON. Mr Wood's deputation, although received after the deadline, was allowed to be put as the Council agreed to waive Standing Orders to so enable .

Written representations from the Chair of Aspex Visual Arts Trust and Mr James McDermott, Safer Communities Service Appeal were circulated in the Chamber. Council also noted that a letter from the Portsmouth MP Ms

Penny Mordaunt had been sent to all members earlier that day regarding the Patey Service.

**94. Urgent Council Business under Standing Order 26  
Notice of Motion**

The Lord Mayor advised that she had received under urgent business a notice of motion concerning Portsmouth Dockyard.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Alistair Thompson

That standing order 32 (a) regarding the notice requirement for notices of motion be waived on this occasion.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor M Hancock

That the notice of motion circulated in the Chamber be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Hancock

That the notice of motion be adopted by Council.

An amendment (attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes) was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Park

The Leader advised that subject to "one" replacing "all three" in paragraph 6 and "in respect of paragraph 9, the words "relevant government departments" replacing "Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office" he was happy to accept the amendments and for it to become part of his substantive motion. The Council agreed to the waiving of standing orders to allow the amendment to be altered accordingly.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

A recorded vote was requested by eight members standing.

The following members were in favour of the substantive notice of motion (there were no votes against or any abstentions)

Andrewes, Michael	Foster, Margaret	Hunt, Lee
Wood, Rob	Eddis, Peter	Patey, Jim
Phillips, Darron	Bosher, Simon	Horne, David
Hall, Terry	Jonas, Frank	Aiden, Gray
Winnington, Matthew	Sanders, Darren	Young, Neill
Wylie, Steve	Vernon, Jackson, Gerald	Park, Mike
Thompson, Alistair	Fuller, David	New, Robert
Stockdale, Sandra	Madden, Leo	Wemyss, Steve
Stevens, Les	Mason, Hugh	Ellcome, Ken
Hancock, Mike	Adair, Margaret	Jones, Donna
Hancock, Jacqui	Smith, Phil	Stubbs, Luke

**RESOLVED that the notice of motion set out below be adopted by Council**

**The City Council regrets and opposes the decision to close the last shipyard in England with the ability to build advanced surface warships. The Portsmouth dockyard has a long and proud history of building naval ships for over 500 years.**

**If Scotland votes to become an independent country in 10 months' time there will be no shipyards in the UK with the ability to build advanced surface warships. This would mean that the Royal Navy would have to place orders in foreign yards for its warships.**

**To protect the possible future of shipbuilding the City Council asks for assurances from BAe and the Ministry of Defence that nothing is done to decommission the shipbuilding facilities in Portsmouth in case of a YES vote in the Scottish referendum.**

**This City Council also places on record;**

- 1. Its thanks to the Solent LEP for their decision to provide support to companies in the supply chain.**
- 2. We ask for the remainder of the carriers work not to be moved from the Portsmouth yard**
- 3. Asks for other companies besides BAE Systems to be given access to the facilities at the dockyard**
- 4. Regrets that BAE Systems have not diversified into the commercial sector**
- 5. Requests the decision to end ship building, is reversed with immediate effect**

6. **Requests the Offshore Patrol Vessel contract be revised to award the building of one of these vessels to Portsmouth instead of Glasgow**
7. **Requests Secretary of State for Defence Philip Hammond visit Portsmouth as soon as possible.**
8. **Invites all local MPs in South East Hampshire to support these requests**
9. **Requests the relevant Government departments write to the City Council explaining what actions have been taken in seeking export markets for British warships**
10. **Request extra maintenance work in ship building is awarded to Portsmouth Dockyard.**

**Note - After this motion was agreed and at the end of meeting, the Council also subsequently agreed that as a matter of urgency, arrangements should be made for the Lord Mayor to lead a delegation (together with the Council's three Group Leaders) to Downing Street to seek to make representations to the Prime Minister regarding the Dockyard decision.**

**95. Recommendations from Cabinet from its Meeting held on 11 November 2013**

Minute 87 - Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2018/19

Minute 86 - Portsmouth City Council Revenue Budget 2014/15 - Savings and Council Tax Proposals

The Lord Mayor explained that it was proposed that the capital programme and revenue budget items be taken and debated together on the basis that each item impacts on the other and on the understanding that the capital programme would be voted on first followed by the revenue budget.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Hancock

That the process outlined above be adopted and this was agreed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Hancock

That the recommendations contained in Cabinet minute 87 Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2018/19 and Cabinet minute 86, Portsmouth City

Council Revenue Budget 2014/15 - Savings and Council Tax Proposals, be approved.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke on the budget proposals and commended the Administration's budget.

As an amendment to the recommendations in relation to Cabinet minute 86, the Revenue Budget, it was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Ken Ellcome

That the recommendations set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes (Conservative revenue amendment) be adopted.

Councillor Jones then spoke to her group's proposed budget amendments and commended them to the council.

As an amendment to the recommendations in relation to Cabinet minute 86, the Revenue Budget, it was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett  
Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That the recommendations set out in Appendix 3 attached to these minutes (Labour revenue amendment) be adopted.

Councillor John Ferrett then spoke to his group's proposed budget amendments and commended them to the Council.

Council adjourned at 5.00 pm. Council resumed at 5.10 pm.

The Lord Mayor explained that members would be given 6 minutes each to speak on the combined item.

At the end of the debate, the Lord Mayor called upon the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson to sum up on the Cabinet's recommendations.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson said that he did not propose to accept the Conservative group or the Labour group amendments and outlined his reasons.

Upon being put to the vote, the recommendations in Cabinet minute 87 - **Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2018/19**, were CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that:**

**1) The Revised Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2018/19 attached as Appendix 1 which includes all additions, deletions and amendments for slippage and re-phasing described in Sections 6 and 8 be approved.**

- 2) The passported Capital Allocations (Ring-fenced Borrowing and Grants) as set out in Section 7 be noted.
- 3) The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall Capital Programme and to alter the overall mix of financing, as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council.
- 4) The public toilets located in Highland Road are declared surplus to requirements.
- 5) The following scheme with uncommitted Corporate Resources totalling £750,000 be removed from the current capital programme whilst a full options appraisal is undertaken to enable priority schemes that have emerged since the programme was last reviewed to proceed in 2014/15.

Resources Released From Uncommitted Capital Scheme						Funding £
ICS Replacement Casework System	-	Children's Social Care				750,000
<b>Total</b>						<b>750,000</b>

- 6) The following schemes as described in Section 9 and Appendix 2 be reflected within the recommended Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2018/19 and be financed from the available corporate capital resources:

Recommended New Capital Schemes	Corporate Resources Required £	Total Scheme Value £
<b>Children &amp; Education:</b>		
School Condition Projects	1,136,000	1,992,750
Portsmouth College - Sufficiency Post 16	240,000	600,000
<b>Housing:</b>		
Support For Vulnerable People	400,000	1,970,070
<b>Planning, Regeneration &amp; Economic Development:</b>		
Dunsbury Hill Farm – Access Road	400,000	9,690,000
City Deal (PCC Contribution)	2,200,000	2,200,000
City Centre Road Upgrade	3,425,000	16,000,000
<b>Resources:</b>		
Commercial Letting of Brunel Wing	600,000	600,000
Call Recording System	90,000	90,000
Working Anywhere	980,000	980,000

<b>Recommended New Capital Schemes</b>		<b>Corporate Resources Required £</b>	<b>Total Scheme Value £</b>
	<b>World War II Memorial</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>97,000</b>
	<b>PSN CoCo Compliance</b>	<b>192,000</b>	<b>192,000</b>
	<b>Landlord Maintenance - Emergency Generator</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>
	<b>Landlord Maintenance - Civic Duct Works</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Traffic &amp; Transportation:</b>			
	<b>Local Transport Plan</b>	<b>3 450,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>
	<b>The Hard Public Transport Interchange</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>7,125,000</b>
<b>Total Recommended Sum to be Approved</b>		<b>12,375,000</b>	<b>42,221,820</b>

7) The following schemes as described in Section 10 be approved as invest to save schemes and funded from Prudential borrowing up to the limit shown:

	<b>Prudential Borrowing Required £</b>
<b>Replace Residential Street Lighting to LED</b>	<b>3,040,000</b>
<b>Dunsbury Hill Farm Access Road (Subject to a satisfactory financial appraisal approved by the S151 Officer)</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>
<b>Total Recommended Sum to be Approved</b>	<b>5,440,000</b>

8) The following Schemes as described in Section 12 be included within the "Reserve List" of Capital Schemes to be considered once additional capital resources are identified.

<b>Future Priority Capital Schemes – Not in Priority Order</b>
<b>City Centre Road Upgrade</b>
<b>ICS Replacement - Children's Social Care Casework System</b>
<b>City Centre Regeneration - Public Realm Improvements</b>

9) The City Council note that Prudential Borrowing can only be used as a source of capital finance for Invest to Save Schemes as described in Section 13.

10) The provisional Prudential Indicators described in Section 13 and set out in Appendix 3 be approved.



## **Revenue Budget**

Upon the proposed amendment standing in the name of Councillor Jones concerning Cabinet minute 86, Revenue Budget being put to the vote, it was declared LOST.

Upon the proposed amendment standing in the name of Councillor J Ferrett concerning Cabinet minute 86, Revenue Budget being put to the vote, it was declared LOST.

**Upon being put to the vote, the recommendations in Cabinet minute 86 - Portsmouth City Council Revenue Budget 2014/15, were CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED that the following be approved:**

- (a) The outline Medium Term Financial Strategy set out in Appendix A.**
- (b) The Budget Savings Requirement for 2014/15 be set at £10m which takes account of any part year effects associated with consultation periods, notice periods and other necessary lead-in times.**
- (c) The savings proposals amounting to £9.860m for 2014/15, £10.998m for 2015/16 and £11.852m in 2016/17 as set out in Appendix B to enable appropriate consultation and notice periods to be given to affected parties.**
- (d) Savings proposals to reduce Members Allowances at Appendix B (saving number 110 and 111). In considering these proposals, Members are advised to remind themselves of the recommendations that the Independent Remuneration Panel made to the City Council on 22 January 2013 as follows:**  
  
**[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/gas20130116r3app1IRPreport.pdf](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/gas20130116r3app1IRPreport.pdf)**
- (e) That in response to any consultation, the relevant Portfolio Holder may alter, amend or substitute any savings proposal(s) set out in Appendix B with alternative proposal(s) amounting to the same value within their Portfolio.**
- (f) Managers be authorised to commence any necessary consultation process or notice process related to the savings proposals set out in Appendix B.**
- (g) The recommended budget pressures for 2014/15 and their on-going effect in 2015/16 and 2016/17 as set out in Appendix C.**
- (h) If, for any reason, any of the budget pressures detailed in Appendix C do not proceed, or underspend, the sum involved will revert to revenue balances.**

- (i) Subject to any significant constraints, legal or otherwise, the Administration has a desire to implement the Living Wage across the Council and requests that the Employment Committee consider the implications of its implementation.**
- (j) Members note that the MTRS Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes, Invest to Save Schemes and redundancies holds a relatively modest uncommitted balance of £2.4m and will only be replenished from an approval to the transfer of any non Portfolio underspends at year end into this reserve.**
- (k) That £200,000 be released from the MTRS Reserve to create a Voluntary Sector Capacity & Transition Fund to enable the voluntary sector to reconfigure their service or enhance their capacity / infrastructure in order to support / provide council services as set out in paragraph 8.22.**
- (l) That £545,000 be released from the MTRS Reserve over a 3 year period to generate savings and additional income totalling over £1.3m per annum (or £3.9m over 3 years) as set out in paragraphs 8.23 to 8.26.**
- (m) That the funds released under recommendations k) and l) be used flexibly across the 2013/14 and future financial years and that the S151 Officer be given delegated authority to determine the annual allocations as necessary.**
- (n) That the Council's Budget for 2014/15 be prepared on the basis of an increase in the basic amount of Council Tax of 1.95% from the basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 (or 34 pence per week for the average household in Portsmouth).**
- (o) That the Council Tax Discount for Second Homes of 10% be reduced to 0% and the Head of the Revenues and Benefits Service be given authority to amend the Policy for Second Homes, Long Term Empty Properties and Determining Discounts for Certain Dwellings accordingly, with effect from 1st April 2014.**
- (p) The Council's Budget Guidelines and Financial Rules be updated to include the following:**

  - Each Portfolio to retain 100% of any year-end underspending and to be held in an earmarked reserve for the relevant Portfolio**
  - The Portfolio Holder be responsible for approving any releases from their earmarked reserve in consultation with the Head of Finance & S151 Officer**
  - That any retained underspend (held in an earmarked reserve) be used in the first instance to cover the following for the relevant Portfolio:**

- i. Any overspendings at the year-end**
  - ii. Any one-off Budget Pressures experienced by a Portfolio**
  - iii. Any on-going Budget Pressures experienced by a Portfolio whilst actions are formulated to permanently mitigate or manage the implications of such on-going budget pressures**
  - iv. Any items of a contingent nature that would historically have been funded from the Council's corporate contingency provision**
  - v. Spend to Save schemes, unless they are of a scale that is unaffordable by the earmarked reserve (albeit that the earmarked reserve may be used to make a contribution)**
- **Once there is confidence that the instances in i) to v) above can be satisfied, the earmarked reserve may be used for any other development or initiative**
- (q) That the Council's Financial Rules (within the constitution), be amended to include the resolution of Council in February 2013 to give delegated authority to the Cabinet to make releases from the MTRS Reserve for Spend to Save or Spend to Avoid cost schemes only (both Revenue & Capital) and that any such scheme must meet the financial savings criteria determined by the Council's S151 Officer. As a minimum, those criteria must include the payback of any investment within a period not exceeding 4 years.**

**96. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

There were no questions from members.

**City Deal**

At the end of the meeting, the Council placed on record its thanks to all the officers, including the Chief Executive, Strategic Director (Kathy Wadsworth), and the Head of Financial Services, together with their respective staff, who had all worked so hard on the City Deal which had been signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Cities Minister that day.

The meeting concluded at 7.02 pm.

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Lord Mayor