

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 2.00 pm

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor Frank Jonas BEM (in the Chair)

Councillors

Rob Wood	George Madgwick
Dave Ashmore	Hugh Mason
Matthew Atkins	Lee Mason
Kimberly Barrett	Kirsty Mellor
Simon Boshier	Gemma New
Ryan Brent	Robert New
Hannah Brent	Terry Norton
Tom Coles	Scott Payter-Harris
Cal Corkery	Jeanette Smith
Ben Dowling	John Smith
Jason Fazackarley	Judith Smyth
George Fielding	Lynne Stagg
Charlotte Gerada	Luke Stubbs
Lewis Gosling	Benedict Swann
Graham Heaney	Linda Symes
Ian Holder	Claire Udy
Suzy Horton	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Lee Hunt	

17. Declaration of Members' Interests

Councillor Jeanette Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute 35 as a paid official of Unison.

Councillor Cal Corkery declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in minute 35 as he was a member and paid official of a union.

In his capacity as the Council's nominated representative of the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority, Councillor Jason Fazackarley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in minute 39.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in minute 34 as she was undergoing a diagnostic process under the Surrey & Borders Partnership.

18. To approve as correct records the Minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings held on 15 February 2022

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

That the minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings held on 15 February 2022 be confirmed as correct records.

These were agreed by assent.

19. To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillors Chris Attwell, Stuart Brown, Jo Hooper, Darren Sanders and Daniel Wemyss.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Ian Holder, Terry Norton, and Claire Udy.

The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to remind Council that he and the Lady Mayoress would be supporting St Mary's Church, Fratton, annual project and encouraged members to donate Easter Eggs to this worthy cause.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor the Leader of the Council updated Council on the latest Covid-19 statistics for the city which had realised a 74% increase in the infection rate and a 50% increase in hospitalisations during the preceding week.

The Lord Mayor went on record to affirm the Council's support for the Ukrainian people following the invasion of the Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor each group leader spoke to confirm their group's solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

20. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

The City Solicitor advised that no deputation requests had been made under the provisions of Standing Order No 24.

21. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25

The City Solicitor advised that one public question had been received from Mr John Thurston.

Mr Thurston asked his question, as below:

"Could the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care tell us what action the Council is taking to bring our GP services back to Portsea?"

Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care, provided his verbal response to this question and the supplementary question that followed.

22. Appointments

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no appointments to be made at this meeting.

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

The Lord Mayor advised that was no urgent business to transact at this meeting.

24. Update on Planning Development Management and increase in capacity

Council Agenda Item 8 (Cabinet minute 10)

Update on Planning Development Management and increase in capacity

Cllr Ryan Brent objected to Cabinet minute 10 to allow for debate.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendation in Cabinet minute 10 be approved.

Council debated the matter.

Following the debate it was RESOLVED that Council NOTED the update report.

25. Capital Strategy 2022/23 - 2031/32

Council Agenda Item 9 (Cabinet minute 32)

Capital Strategy 2022/23-2031/32

The recommendations within this report were approved unopposed.

It was therefore RESOLVED

- 1. That Part I of the Capital Strategy (Capital Expenditure and Aspirations) be approved including:**
 - i. The Short / Medium / Long-term Aspirations set out in Appendix 1.**

2. That Part II of the Capital Strategy (Borrowing and Investing) be approved including:

- i. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for Debt Repayment Policy (Part II, (paragraph 2.5)**
- ii. The investment indicators in Part II - Appendix 2 (Part II, paragraph 3.5)**
- iii. That the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) will bring a report to the next Cabinet and City Council if (Part II, paragraph 3.5):**

A). The Council's gross General Fund (GF) debt exceeds 500% of GF net service expenditure or;

B) Overall investment income from investment properties and long term treasury management investments exceeds 7.5% of GF net service expenditure.

26. Treasury Management Policy 2022/23

Council Agenda Item 10 (Cabinet minute 33)

Treasury Management Policy 2022/23

Cllr Scott Payter-Harris objected to Cabinet minute 33 to allow for debate.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendation in Cabinet minute 33 be approved.

Council debated the matter.

Following a vote it was RESOLVED

- 1. That the upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days contained in paragraph 4.7 of the attached Treasury Management Policy Statement be approved;**
- 2. That the upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing contained in appendix 5.1 of the attached Treasury Management Policy Statement be approved;**
- 3. That the attached Treasury Management Policy Statement including the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 be approved;**
- 4. That the following change compared to the previous Annual Investment Strategy be noted:**

- i. that the UK Infrastructure Bank be added to the approved sources of borrowing as set out in paragraph 3.9 of the Treasury Management Policy Statement;
5. As set out in paragraph 1.4 of the Treasury Management Policy Statement, the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) and officers nominated by him have delegated authority to:
 - i. invest surplus funds in accordance with the approved Annual Investment Strategy;
 - ii. borrow to finance short term cash deficits and capital payments from any reputable source within the authorised limit for external debt of £963m approved by the City Council on 9 February 2021;
 - iii. reschedule debt to even the maturity profile or to achieve revenue savings;
 - iv. to buy and sell foreign currency, and to purchase hedging instruments including forward purchases, forward options, and foreign exchange rate swaps to mitigate the foreign exchange risks associated with some contracts that are either priced in foreign currencies or where the price is indexed against foreign currency exchange rates;
6. That the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) has the power to delegate treasury management operations to relevant staff;
7. That the Chief Executive, the Leader of the City Council and the Chair of the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee be informed of any variances from the Treasury Management Policy when they become apparent, and that the Leader of the City Council be consulted on remedial action (paragraph 1.2.2 of Treasury Management Policy Statement).

27. Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2030

Council Agenda Item 11 (Cabinet minute 35)

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2030

Cllr George Fielding objected to Cabinet minute 35 to allow for debate.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Jason Fazackarley
Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

That the recommendation in Cabinet minute 35 be approved.

Council debated the matter.

Following a vote it was RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) for 2022-2030 attached at Appendix 1 of the report be APPROVED.

28. Solent Freeport Full Business Case

Council Agenda Item 12 (Cabinet minute 38)

Solent Freeport Full Business Case

Cllr Simon Boshier objected to Cabinet minute 38 to allow for debate.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendation in Cabinet minute 38 be approved.

Council debated the matter.

Following a vote it was RESOLVED that Full Council:

(i) APPROVED the report; and

(ii) Delegated to the Chief Executive and the S.151 Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the City Council to approve the Solent Freeport Full Business Case (FBC) on behalf of Portsmouth City Council, and to see it submitted to Central Government following consultation with the S.151 and Monitoring Officers of each of the tax sites.

29. Carbon Budget Methodology

Council Agenda Item 13 (Cabinet minute 34)

Carbon Budget Methodology

Cllr Jeanette Smith objected to Cabinet minute 34 to allow for debate.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Kimberly Barrett
Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

That the recommendation in Cabinet minute 34 be approved

Council debated the matter.

Following the debate, it was RESOLVED that Full Council NOTED the report.

30. Pay Policy Statement

Council Agenda Item 14 (Employment Committee Minute 8)

Pay Policy Statement

The recommendation within this report was approved unopposed

It was therefore RESOLVED that Full Council APPROVED the Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

31. Notices of Motion

32. Defibrillators in Portsmouth

It was

Proposed by Councillor Kimberly Barrett
Seconded by Councillor Ian Holder

That notice of motion (a) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Simon Boshier
Seconded by Councillor Lewis Gosling

To delete paragraph five and replace with:

"This Council congratulates the work of all those schools and community groups who have raised money to buy and install defibrillators and acknowledges the support of Ward Councillors from all political parties who have supported the fund raising efforts with CIL contributions."

Add a paragraph afterwards:

"This Council supports the Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation with its campaign for legislative change on the installation of Automated External Defibrillators within health and sports facilities, whilst raising awareness of cardiac arrest and delivering CPR training."

Following debate, the proposer of the original motion, Councillor Kimberly Barrett, agreed to subsume the amendment put by Councillor Simon Boshier into the motion.

Following a vote, the substantive motion incorporating the amendment in the name of Councillor Simon Boshier was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore RESOLVED that:

Ever since the harrowing scenes of Danish footballer Christian Eriksen receiving cardiac treatment were broadcast onto the screens of millions

of people during a game at Euro 2020, the recognition of the need of public defibrillators has become more apparent.

On average, 30,000 people each year suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and 20% of these incidents occur in public spaces. Only 10% of victims of cardiac arrests survive when the incident occurs outside hospital.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) can play a significant role in saving the lives of people who suffer heart attacks in public. It is estimated that a shock from an AED, alongside CPR treatment, increases survival rates to 75-80%.

This Council commends the many organisations, schools and communities who have already installed community defibrillators that are accessible not just to the organisations themselves, but, that are also accessible to members of the public. It acknowledges that places like Fratton Community Centre are raising funds to make sure that the centre will have access to this life saving equipment.

This Council congratulates the work of all those schools and community groups who have raised money to buy and install defibrillators and acknowledges the support of Ward Councillors from all political parties who have supported the fund raising efforts with CIL contributions.

This Council supports the Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation with its campaign for legislative change on the installation of Automated External Defibrillators within health and sports facilities, whilst raising awareness of cardiac arrest and delivering CPR training.

This Council also commends the outstanding work and care that the South Central Ambulance Service, Queen Alexandra Hospital and staff across all areas of the NHS provide Portsmouth residents 24/7, 365 days a year. The Council would also like to thank the work that the British Heart Foundation are doing to continue to research into cardiac arrests but also, the campaigning that they have done alongside other organisations to get CPR onto the curriculum at English secondary schools by the end of this school year. This is alongside the work that they are doing regarding 'The Circuit' to create a national network of defibrillators which will link to every ambulance service in the country and in the public domain to help save more lives from 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests' (OHCA).

Although there are a number of public defibrillators on council premises and assets and further more on non-council owned land and buildings, there may be gaps in the provision of publicly accessible AEDs across the city.

Council resolves to ask Cabinet:

- To add as many existing defibrillator locations to the list hosted on the council's website, and to also add those not already on the South**

Central Ambulance Service's 'Save a life' App, to make sure that there is a log of as many locations as possible of public defibrillators in Portsmouth including those in non-council premises.

- **Review and, where appropriate, seek to increase the provision of defibrillators across council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall and to continue to support businesses, community associations and schools who may wish to install their own and bring an update report to Cabinet to demonstrate progress.**

33. Elections Bill

It was

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

That notice of motion (b) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

After campaign in the seventh paragraph insert a full stop then add:

'The City Council also urges the government to reconsider those measures which seek to change the oversight arrangements of the Electoral Commission and to maintain the Commission's current independence and its accountability to all parties elected to the parliaments of the United Kingdom. We resolve to do this by:'

Following debate, the proposer of the original motion, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson agreed to subsume the amendment put by Councillor Graham Heaney into the motion.

Upon being put to a vote the substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment in the name of Councillor Graham Heaney was declared **CARRIED.**

It was therefore RESOLVED that Portsmouth City Council recognises the importance of ensuring that elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

The City Council notes that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory photographic ID to vote.

The City Council believes that this change will act as a barrier to people voting and increase inequality in the electoral process.

The City Council notes with concern that currently 3.5 million people in the UK do not have any form of expensive photographic ID.

The City Council notes that these changes are estimated to cost the taxpayer £180 million and will create unnecessary bureaucracy to Councils.

The City Council believes that at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier, not harder for people to vote.

Portsmouth City Council doesn't want to see people being turned away at the ballot box because of these changes and resolves to support the #HandsOffOurVote campaign. The City Council also urges the government to reconsider those measures which seek to change the oversight arrangements of the Electoral Commission and to maintain the Commission's current independence and its accountability to all parties elected to the parliaments of the United Kingdom. We resolve to do this by:

1. Writing to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2. Writing to Portsmouth's local MPs asking them to raise these concerns in Parliament.

34. Support for Adults with ADHD

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Coles
Seconded by Councillor Kirsty Mellor

That notice of motion (c) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Council debated the motion.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore RESOLVED that

Around 5% of adults are diagnosed with ADHD, many other adults suffer with the condition but lack an official diagnosis.

Those with ADHD may struggle with inattentiveness, hyperfocus, hyperactivity, emotional dysregulation and excessive mind wandering.

Adults with ADHD present with persistent difficulties in following directions, remembering information, concentrating, organizing tasks, completing work within specified time frames and appearing timely in appointments. These difficulties affect several different areas of an ADHD adult's life, causing

emotional, social, vocational, marital, legal, financial and/or academic problems.

Studies on adults with ADHD have shown that, more often than not, they experience self-stigma and depression in childhood, commonly resulting from feeling neglected and different from their peers.

These problems may play a role in the high levels of depression, substance abuse, and relationship problems that affect adults with ADHD later in life.

This Council notes that adults in the UK can face waiting lists of over three years before receiving a diagnosis, even those diagnosed in childhood can expect a lengthy wait if seeking support later in life.

This Council notes that, for those in Portsmouth, the nearest NHS-run Adult ADHD and Autism unit is more than thirty miles away in Basingstoke and covers much of Hampshire and Surrey, stretching the service.

This Council recognises services for Adults with ADHD are underfunded and overstretched.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary for Health and Social Care urging a full review of Adult ADHD services and implementation of improvements in accessibility to treatment and support.

Furthermore, the Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care to review with the CCG any improvements in accessibility to treatment and support that could be implemented locally.

35. In-sourcing first: reversing the privatisation of council services

It was

Proposed by Councillor George Fielding
Seconded by Councillor Judith Smyth

That notice of motion (d) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

In 'Full Council resolves to call on Cabinet' paragraph 1 line 3 after the word council add 'or by either voluntary or community sector'

Councillor George Fielding did not agree to subsume the amendment put by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson into the motion.

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Following a vote, the amendment proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson was declared **LOST**.

Council voted on the motion as proposed by Councillor George Fielding.

Following a vote, the motion standing in the name of Councillor George Fielding was declared **LOST**.

36. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - Platinum Jubilee

It was

Proposed by Councillor Benedict Swann
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

That notice of motion (e) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore RESOLVED that

This council offers its congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee . This council requests that an Official Letter is sent to Her Majesty in the name of the people of Portsmouth, in advance of the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of her coronation, wishing Her Majesty the City's heartiest best wishes and congratulations on a long and glorious reign.

37. Constitutional Review

It was

Proposed by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Atkins

That notice of motion (f) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Upon being put to a vote the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

It was therefore RESOLVED that

Portsmouth City Council's constitution sets out how we operate, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and answerable to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for us to choose.

However, it is noted that the council has significantly changed in recent years with regards to how it functions, which means the Constitution is somewhat inflexible. This council now believes it is time for the Constitution to be reviewed along with the Council's standing orders and officer member protocol.

Therefore the Council requests that a Constitution Working Review group is set up and reports into Governance, Audit and Standards Committee while also reporting back into this Full Council by May 2023.

38. Local Plan

It was

Proposed by Councillor Ryan Brent
Seconded by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

That notice of motion (g) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Council debated the matter.

At the conclusion of the debate, eight members of the council requested that a recorded vote be taken on this item under Standing Order No.48b.

The following members voted in favour

Councillor Matthew Atkins	Councillor Simon Boshier
Councillor Hannah Brent	Councillor Ryan Brent
Councillor Lewis Gosling	Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Gemma New	Councillor Robert New
Councillor Terry Norton	Councillor Scott Payter-Harris
Councillor John Smith	Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Benedict Swann	Councillor Linda Symes

The following members voted against

Councillor Dave Ashmore	Councillor Kimberly Barrett
Councillor Tom Coles	Councillor Cal Corkery
Councillor Ben Dowling	Councillor Jason Fazackarley
Councillor George Fielding	Councillor Charlotte Gerada
Councillor Graham Heaney	Councillor Ian Holder
Councillor Suzy Horton	Councillor Lee Hunt
Councillor George Madgwick	Councillor Hugh Mason
Councillor Kirsty Mellor	Councillor Jeanette Smith
Councillor Judith Smyth	Councillor Lynne Stagg
Councillor Claire Udy	Councillor Rob Wood
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson	

The following member abstained from voting

Councillor Frank Jonas

The motion was declared **LOST**.

39. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

Eleven questions and one urgent question from members had been received under Standing Order No 17.

The urgent question was from Councillor Simon Boshier.

"Portsmouth City Council has a 3 year contract with Gazprom to supply 100% of our natural gas to council-operated buildings including communal heating in our social housing properties, schools and tenanted buildings. In light of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, what steps are being taken to cancel this contract?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

It was noted that a briefing for all Members on this matter was scheduled to be held on Friday 18 March 2022.

The first question was from Councillor Cal Corkery.

"Is the Cabinet Member for Community Safety aware of the apparent degradation in safe working practices with regards to breathing apparatus and high rise firefighting within Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service?"

Councillor Dave Ashmore deferred to Councillor Jason Fazackarley as the Council's representative on the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority. This question was answered by Councillor Jason Fazackarley who advised that he would take up the issue with both the Fire and Rescue Authority and its Members.

The second question was from Councillor Charlotte Gerada.

"Can the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation explain why no bike hangars will be rolled out in any wards in the north of the city, despite there being a number of requests from Nelson, Cosham, Hilsea and Copnor residents?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Cllr Lynne Stagg.

The third question was from Councillor Judith Smyth.

"I understand that there is a new approach to removing graffiti and tagging from Portsmouth streets. Please explain what you are doing to monitor whether this is working?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Environment, Cllr Dave Ashmore.

The fourth question was from Councillor Hannah Brent.

"Can you confirm what consultation was undertaken with residents in Cliffdale Gardens/Henderson Road with regard to the charging of commission on sales of mobile homes."

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Housing & Preventing Homelessness the Leader advised that a written response would be forwarded.

The fifth question was from Councillor Ryan Brent.

"Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress of the development at Tipner West?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy & City Development, Cllr Hugh Mason.

The Lord Mayor advised that the 45 minutes allowed for this item under Standing Order No.17h had passed and that the answers to the remaining questions would be circulated to all members in writing.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Lord Mayor thanked those Councillors who were standing down at the May 2022 elections for their excellent service to the Council.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Lord Mayor for his work during his term of office.

The meeting concluded at 8.47 pm.

Lord Mayor