



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



Agenda & minutes

Full Council meeting of
Tuesday, 19 July 2022

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Portsmouth City Council

An ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held in **the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Portsmouth on Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 2.10pm or the conclusion of the Extraordinary Meeting if later** and all members of the council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the business detailed from agenda 1 onwards:-

Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions

- Following the government announcement 'Living with COVID-19' made on 21 February and the end of universal free testing from 1st April, attendees are no longer required to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting however we still encourage attendees to follow the PH precautions we have followed over the last two years to protect themselves and others including vaccination and taking a lateral flow test should they wish.
- We strongly recommend that attendees should be double vaccinated and have received a booster.
- If symptomatic we encourage you not to attend the meeting but to stay at home. Updated government guidance from 1 April advises people with a respiratory infection, a high temperature and who feel unwell, to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result is being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious.
- We encourage all attendees to wear a face covering while moving around crowded areas of the Guildhall.
- Although not a legal requirement, attendees are strongly encouraged to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection by following the 'hands, face, space' and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice that also protects us from other winter viruses.
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link.

Agenda

1 Declaration of Members' Interests

2 To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2022 (Pages 21 - 50)

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

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (stewart.agland@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting (so Monday 18 July for this meeting), and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted

5 Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25 (none received)

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 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (Pages 51 - 78)

To receive and consider the attached report and recommendation to note for information only from Cabinet held on 21 June.

Appendix 3 can be viewed via this link or available upon request:

[Unseen-Helpline-Annual-Assessment_2021-FINAL.pdf \(unseenuk.org\)](#)

9 Queen Alexandra (QA) Hospital Emergency Ward Support (Pages 79 - 98)

To receive and consider the attached report from Cabinet held on 21 June (recommendation also attached).

10 Forward Plan Omission (Pages 99 - 100)

The Low Carbon Projects Fund report by the Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Building Services, was omitted from the Forward Plan covering 20 May 2022 to 20 August 2022, published on 20 May 2022. The Chair of the City Council's Scrutiny Management Panel has been notified of the decision being made and a public notice published.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the omission to the Forward Plan be noted and

(2) that publication of the omission notice be noted.

11 Low Carbon Projects Fund (Pages 101 - 122)

To receive and consider the attached report from the Climate Change and Environment Portfolio meeting held on 18 July (recommendation to follow).

Notices of Motion: Process information

In accordance with Standing Orders, all Notices of Motions on the agenda will, subject to the 6 month rule, automatically be dealt with at this meeting, thereby dispensing with a three-minute presentation from the proposer and subsequent vote to enable its consideration.

12 Notices of Motion

(a) North End Bank

Proposed by Councillor Lee Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Jason Fazackarley

This Council notes there is no bank serving North End local shopping area. The nearest bank is at Cosham or Commercial Road. Not everyone can use online and cashpoint services.

This Council is advised and notes that there is currently a petition being organised by local residents, which has already attracted significant support, campaigning to get a bank into North End local shopping centre to serve surrounding homes and businesses and that this petition is likely to be submitted to the Council in due course.

In the meantime, in recognition of this demonstration of public feeling on the issue, Council agrees to ask Cabinet to write to the main banks urging them to send representatives to a meeting with local councillors, trade representatives and city regeneration officers to discuss ways to get a counter service back into North End shopping centre; furthermore this Council urges the Member of Parliament for Portsmouth North to raise this matter with ministers and cordially invites her to attend the above meetings to be arranged by the Cabinet.

(b) Cost of Living Emergency

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

This Council Declares a Cost of Living Emergency

Thousands of people here in Portsmouth are facing impossible choices as energy and food prices spiral out of control. This isn't just making it difficult for local people to make ends meet, in many cases it is making it impossible.

This Council notes that:

This government has consistently failed to address the cost of living crisis, at the scale required:

Fuel:

On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.

In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022)

Tax reliefs announced by the government are only for investing in "UK extraction", ie. fossil fuels. This move is encouraging more investment in North Sea oil and gas extraction, while not accelerating energy decarbonisation plans.

In June petrol prices inched towards £2 per litre, affecting many families and front line workers as well as local businesses

Household income:

On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average Portsmouth family an additional £108 per year

The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning that Portsmouth's 31,000 pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost an average of £487 to someone on the full new state pension and an average of £373 to someone on the full basis state pension (TUC, 2022)

In the face of rising prices and reduced income, from June 2021- June 22 Portsmouth foodbanks distributed over 5,000 food parcels to feed 10,000 people, with a continuing upward trend in demand

Council welcomes the steps the Lib Dem administration is taking to deal with this crisis, for instance by offering

- £75 for every child eligible for free school meals, 2 year old childcare funding or early years pupil premium this term
- £100 for every pensioner household on council tax support and/or Pension Credit and helping the voluntary sector support those missing out
- Grants for foodbanks, community meals, larders and pantries so they can help people in need
- Help for those who need food, face unaffordable rent costs or rent arrears or are in the rough sleeping pathway
- Grants for voluntary groups helping those in need

In particular, Council welcomes the financial and other support given by the Lib Dem administration, HIVE Portsmouth, local churches and Penny Mordaunt MP to foodbanks, community larders and pantries across the city.

Despite these measures, this Council declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to immediately:

Impose a windfall tax on the super profits of oil and gas companies and to use this to take an average of £600 off the cost of Portsmouth residents' energy bills this year.

Urgently review the energy cap regime in order to provide much greater protection to consumers, as other European countries have done.

Undertake an investigation into forecourt fuel prices, and put in place transparency on fuel taxes and independent regulation for solid fuels/ petrol and diesel.

Demonstrate a real and immediate investment in U.K. renewables and decarbonise the energy sector.

Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average Portsmouth household a further £600 this year which would

1. Reduce inflationary pressure.
2. Reduce pressure on strained household budgets.
3. Help businesses to be better placed to adjust.

Immediately reintroduce the pensions triple lock to support Portsmouth's pensioners

Immediately re-introduce the £20 a week uplift for Universal Credit claimant

(c) **Review of the cross border licensing legislation and its negative impact on local authorities**

Proposed by Councillor George Madgwick
Seconded by Councillor Brian Madgwick

A local extract from the recent LGA Councillor Handbook on HG/PH highlighted the issues relating to licensed vehicles. Councils have a wide range of powers that can be used to regulate taxis and PHVs, protecting the public and supporting local economies; but there are also some anomalies within the existing system.

Local councils have the power to attach conditions to the licences of operators, taxis (vehicles), PHVs, and PHV drivers, but not the licences of taxi drivers. They can also influence the local context in

which vehicles operate, and a range of licensing policies have been developed to do this by councils. However, over time this has led to a variety of different standards being applied and a lack of consistency.

Many licensing authorities have reviewed and strengthened their licensing policies following high profile cases. However, these efforts have been undermined by out of area working by drivers who have been licensed in other areas where the licensing requirements may not be as strict. For example, some councils have introduced a mandatory CCTV policy which drivers licensed with them are required to comply with, but out of area drivers can continue to operate without CCTV because they are subject to different licensing conditions.

This has caused huge frustration to councils and local drivers who have complied with more rigorous standards, and the LGA has argued that this could be addressed by the introduction of greater national consistency through national minimum standards. Whilst it is good that the Government has published new statutory standards which may go some way to raising standards, this does not negate the need for wider reform.

Out of area working has increased significantly partly due to new app-based models which make it easier for individuals to book a PHV that is licensed elsewhere. As well as varying driver and vehicle standards, another key issue for councils is the limited enforcement powers they have to take action against PHVs that are licensed by another authority.

First and foremost, councils have no ability to stop vehicles, which leaves them only able to intervene when a vehicle is stationary, and unable to prevent it being driven off - only the police may stop a vehicle.

Secondly, a council may only take action against a vehicle or driver that it has licensed, meaning that there is absolutely nothing that a council can do if a vehicle or driver licensed elsewhere is operating in their area, other than complain to the 'home' authority.

It's been argued that enforcement officers should be able to take action against any PHV operating in their area. Councils have explored and started to implement the use of joint enforcement or joint warranting agreements at a regional level, which allow licensing enforcement officers to enforce against vehicles which have been licensed in other areas, an approach that is recommended in the statutory standards. However, these agreements only extend to those authorities who agree this at the local level.

The issues above highlight how outdated legislation is no longer fit for purpose and we need to call for new legislation to be brought

forward as soon as possible. Whilst in the short term there is no commitment to a complete overhaul of the licensing regime, new statutory standards should address at least some of the key issues facing councils.

In Portsmouth City Council alone we have already been highlighted and had reports of dozens of licensed PH vehicles that are licensed to an authority based almost 200 miles away. We have also had reports of vehicles that we, as a local licensing authority, would deem as not fit for purpose completing private hire jobs for our residents via a local operator. The number of licensed PH vehicles in Portsmouth that are licensed by distant authorities is increasing heavily every single month.

Full Council asks the Chairman of the Licensing Committee and Leader of the Council to write a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP and Stephen Morgan MP to ask that a review takes place as follows:-

The current statutory private hire and vehicle standards makes no reference specifically to cross border hiring. But it does mention enforcement of the licensing regime that proposes joint authorisation of enforcement officers so that would give us authorisation under to act to stop and investigate on behalf of another licensing authority albeit we would not receive any income to facilitate such compliance checking. This is not sufficient to address the problem and is in realism not possible to implement.

We suggest that the department for transport reviews the current loophole in relation to cross border hiring, particularly in relation to localising enforcement action towards private hire workers within our city. We need to bring back local controls to local authority to keep our residents safe. We need to be able to implement policies that are relevant to the local area.

We ask the Department of Transport to commit to a full review of the current cross border legislation and its negative impact. We also request that the DfT work with local licensing authority in terms of developing future legislation that focuses on localism for licensing matters.

(d) **Phasing out of pesticides and weed-killers in Portsmouth**

Proposed by Councillor Charlotte Gerada
Seconded by Councillor Judith Smyth

Council notes:

- There is a growing body of evidence concerning the dangers of unrestricted use of pesticides and herbicides, and in particular, of Glyphosate. The detrimental effects of pesticides on fauna as well as flora is widely documented,

with loss of biodiversity the most egregious. [1]

- There is growing evidence about the carcinogenic risk posed to humans from pesticides, including a high profile court case in the United States regarding weed killer. Concerns for those who are vulnerable, including children, are particularly pervasive. In particular, Glyphosate is a higher health risk than previously assumed, with the World Health Organisation recently upgrading the pesticide to 'probably carcinogenic to humans'. [2]
- A variety of pesticides are currently used by Portsmouth City Council, including biocides, fungicides, herbicides (e.g. Glyphosate) and insecticides. They are applied at present in all hard areas and landscapes within the PFI network, parks and open spaces, cemeteries, schools and communal areas of housing land across Portsmouth. [3]
- Local Authorities in the UK, and abroad, have taken a variety of measures to limit or exclude the use of pesticides for treatment of weeds and the maintenance of green spaces. Glastonbury, Lewes, Bristol, Chichester and Petersfield are just some of the councils now committed to the prohibition of pesticides and organisations like Pesticide Action Network UK has supported councils to do this.
- A motion to review pesticide use came to the Full Council meeting 13 October 2021. [4]
- As a result of the motion, a report about banning pesticides went to Cabinet in March 2022. Council officers acknowledged that the council's approach is to continue to work towards a reduced, minimal use of pesticides and an integrated or pesticide-free solution wherever possible. [5]

Council believes:

- This council has a duty of care to its citizens regarding concerns over the use of pesticides. In the same way that the council is looking to mitigate the risks from air pollution caused by vehicles, it should aim to minimise the risk to all of its residents from unrestricted spraying of certain types of weed killer.
- The impact of weed killers on Portsmouth's biodiversity and environment should be an important consideration in the approaches taken by the council to maintaining green spaces, tree pits and highways.
- Costs and efficacy of weed management shouldn't be the only consideration when deciding what approach to use across the city.

- The contracting staff who carry out weed spraying work need to be protected from harm.
- This council should use its considerable influence and leadership to inform other users of such weed killers about both their negative effects as well as the alternatives.

Council resolves:

- To ask Cabinet, utilising the Transport, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel as appropriate, to commission trials of a wide range of non-chemical and mechanical alternatives for weed treatment and management and to request council officers report back the findings within six months.
- To ask Cabinet to Involve local communities in becoming a pesticide-free city, including ensuring the council communicates the benefits of stopping pesticide use and invites residents to take part in trialling other methods of weed management.
- To request that Portsmouth City Council, through Cabinet, delivers a phased withdrawal from the use of all pesticides, including Glyphosate, over a period of three years, using methods tested in the aforementioned trials. This includes all of the council's subcontractors, such as Colas.
- To ask Cabinet to take the opportunity of the best-value review of its contract with Colas in 2024 to both improve community liaison and identify ways in which Colas can change its practices to help the council achieve its environmental objectives. For example, not spraying where residents have opted out, allowing for larger and non-sprayed tree pits and other opportunities for allowing wildflowers to flourish.
- To request that the Leader of the Council provides bi-annual updates to members on the progress of this initiative.

References

[1] *The Guardian*, June 2022: 'Glyphosate weedkiller damages wild bee colonies, study reveals'

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jun/02/glyphosate-weedkiller-damages-wild-bumblebee-colonies>

[2] The WHO concluded there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals:

“The IARC Working Group that conducted the evaluation considered the significant findings from the US EPA report and several more recent positive results in concluding that there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. Glyphosate also caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells, although it gave negative results in tests using bacteria.”

[3] Portsmouth City Council Report to Cabinet, March 2022: ‘Use of Pesticides on City Council Land’

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s37325/Use%20of%20Pesticides%20on%20City%20Council%20Land.pdf>

[4] Final motion ‘Pesticide Use - Portsmouth City Council’ to Full Council meeting 13 October 2021

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/b14496/Agenda%20Item%2012a%20Pesticide%20Use%20LD%20Amendment%20Sunders%20Ashmore%2013th-Oct-2021%2014.00%20Full%20Council.pdf?T=9>

[5] Portsmouth City Council Report to Cabinet, March 2022: ‘Use of Pesticides on City Council Land’

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s37325/Use%20of%20Pesticides%20on%20City%20Council%20Land.pdf>

(e) **Hilsea Community Centre**

Proposed by Councillor Russell Simpson
Seconded by Councillor George Madgwick

The Ward of Hilsea has no community centre. This negatively impacts the local community dramatically.

Full Council asks Cabinet, if possible through the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, to find a suitable location for a new community centre within the Hilsea ward and report back to Cabinet (keeping the Group Leaders and all Hilsea councillors informed) about the feasibility to open one.

(f) **GPs in the City**

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

This Council calls on the government to take urgent action to address the appalling ratio of local residents to GPs in our city.

Evidence from the Nuffield Trust showed that in Portsmouth there is only one GP for every 2483 people. This was the worst ratio of GPs to residents in England. Some areas, such as Oxfordshire, have more than double that provision.

I have written to the Secretary of State asking for him to work with the city to urgently address this issue.

We call upon the government, through Cabinet, to back our plea to become a pilot area to follow Wales and Scotland to allow pharmacists to issue prescriptions to ease pressure on GPs.

We further call upon the government, through Cabinet, to back our calls for the Council to be able to directly employ GPs.

This Council, through Cabinet, pledges to work closely with partners, including the GPs of Portsmouth Primary Care Alliance, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and other primary healthcare professionals and in conjunction with the Integrated Care System to recruit, retain and resource our Local GPs, in line with the goals of the city vision to deliver better health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Portsmouth.

Through Cabinet, we call on the Secretary of State to commit to providing whatever support is necessary to achieve these aims.

(g) **Widening Participation in Local Democracy**

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery

Seconded by Councillor Kirsty Mellor

Full Council notes:

1. It is an important function of local authorities and political parties to promote participation in local democracy, particularly through voter registration and encouraging people to use their vote at election time.
2. People from traditionally marginalised and excluded social groups and communities may experience additional barriers which prevent or dissuade them from active participation in local democracy.
3. Participants at previous Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings have expressed a view that more could be done to engage people with learning disabilities in local politics and elections.
4. The council is the only local authority known to employ a Learning Disability Champion.
5. Valuable work is already undertaken by the council to promote voter registration and encourage participation in local democracy.
6. Voter turnout in local elections tends to be low, however there is variation across the city with a high of 42% in Eastney and Craneswater ward and a low of 18% in Charles Dickens ward in the 2022 polls.

Full Council believes:

1. Every local resident has the right to take part in local democracy and both the council and political parties have a duty to engage people in the process and promote active participation.
2. Where certain social groups or communities are known or identified to face particular challenges or difficulties taking part in local democracy, action should be taken to break down those barriers and make politics more accessible.
3. The Learning Disability Partnership Board and Learning Disability Champion, collectively do fantastic work to represent and advocate for the views and interests of the local learning disability communities.
4. Low voter turnout risks undermining the legitimacy of local government and the confidence of residents in their council and their elected representatives.
5. Low turnout across the city often seems to correlate to areas of economic deprivation and social exclusion.
6. That it would be helpful if Group Leaders could work together to ensure provision of an accessible hustings event in advance of the next local elections aimed at better engaging people from marginalised or excluded communities in the democratic process.
7. That all Members are, and should be aware that they can assist in the promotion of inclusive voter engagement by taking active steps to produce easy read and readily accessible political literature.

Full council resolves:

1. To place on record our thanks to the Learning Disability Partnership Board, Learning Disability Champion and Electoral Services team for the crucially important work they do.
2. To ask Cabinet to commission a report to be brought back to Full Council this municipal year looking at what can be done to ensure greater accessibility to, and the promotion of resident engagement in local democracy.

(h) **Reinstate Shareholder Committee**

Proposed by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

Seconded by Councillor Ryan Brent

The purpose of the Shareholder Committee was to approve and oversee the Council's strategic objectives across Portsmouth City Council's companies, while also giving support in the development of these companies in line with the Council's regulations and ambitions.

The decision made by the Cabinet voting members of the Shareholder committee at its first ever meeting was to abolish the Shareholder Committee and ensure that all oversight of PCC companies and future company subsidiaries would be undertaken by and reported to full Cabinet.

This council believes the decision to abolish the Shareholder committee was wrong.

This Council believes scrutiny and oversight of PCC companies and future company subsidiaries should be undertaken by the Shareholder Committee and not full Cabinet. This council requests the Leader and the Cabinet to reinstate the Shareholder Committee and report back to Full Council within the next 3 months.

(i) **Civic Offices Sustainability**

Proposed by Councillor Ryan Brent

Seconded by Councillor Lee Mason

Understandably, there has been a need for businesses, including local authorities, to develop new ways of working in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The council commends the continued hard work of officers, and their desire to ensure that residents of the city have minimal disruptions and impact to the 'normal' services that they received prior to the pandemic.

However, the council regrets that the Liberal Democrat administration have not facilitated a return to 'normal' yet. Members of this council as well as residents of the city have noted a seemingly empty civic offices building which does not function effectively. It is vital that taxpayers receive the best value for money with services, especially those delivered by the local authority, and unfortunately the council notes that this is not happening.

It is now time to look forward and consider what is the most purposeful and efficient way for the local authority to deliver its services. Therefore, the council compels the administration to bring a report to the October Full Council meeting that considers the future of the civic offices. The report will include:

- Running costs prior to the pandemic and current data for the council as a whole in addition to a breakdown per Department, including working from home overheads
- Costed proposals for alternative working solutions for the

Civic Offices functions, including travel expenses and parking

- Possible alternative income generation utilisation of the asset
- Evaluative financial analysis of the current market value of the civic offices
- Preliminary findings from the working from home working group, including all meeting dates and agenda items since it commenced.

(j) **Park Homes**

Proposed by Councillor Lee Mason

Seconded by Councillor John Smith

“This council condemns the introduction of a 10% commission on the sale of park homes at the council owned sites at Cliffdale Gardens and Henderson Road. This is in effect a tax on some of the least wealthy home owners in the city that will reduce the value of their homes and damage the long term financial plans that residents, including some who are now vulnerable or elderly, have carefully made over many years. This is an exploitative cash grab, made at a time when residents are already struggling with the cost of living and at a time when the council itself has received government funding that means its most recent budget required no cuts to services or budgets to make savings. There is no justifiable reason for stripping Portsmouth home owners of their assets in this way.

This council condemns the attempts by the administration to mislead residents by claiming that it has found a solution by applying the policy to new owners only. Anyone with basic economic literacy can see that new buyers will reduce what they are willing to pay to take account of the fact they have to pay a 10% commission on future sale. This council therefore notes that the charge will still adversely impact existing residents and calls on the cabinet member for housing to accept that his change in policy will not fully protect existing owners.

The city council further expresses its disapproval of the apparently secretive way in which this policy has been adopted. The council condemns the decision to use a legal technicality - the fact that there is no formal change to the terms and conditions of residency - to avoid consulting residents on the proposal. This council expresses it's disapproval of the fact that this policy was revealed only in the budget with no discussion in public decision meetings by the relevant cabinet member or the full cabinet. This council

condemns the fact that since the budget and despite significant and vocal protest from residents that the cabinet member has hidden behind the budget and despite changing the policy so that it only applies to future owners he has still refused to engage properly with residents who have instead received only a letter confirming that the policy is already in place. This disregard for the residents and for public scrutiny is shameful.

This council calls on the Administration to reverse the decision to charge the commission at the earliest opportunity. This council calls on the Administration to apologise to residents of Cliffdale Gardens and Henderson Road for the way they have been treated. This council calls on all political group leaders and members of this council to commit to reversing this decision in the 2023 budget if necessary.”

(k) **Warm Places**

Proposed by Councillor Judith Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Graham Heaney

The cost-of-living crisis will have a devastating impact across all areas of daily life. Spiralling price increases will impact disproportionately on low-wage households and people dependent on state support. Wages will fail to keep pace with price increases. With inflation likely to hit as much as 11% by next winter and the research firm Kantar predicting an increase in the average household food bill of 380%, the current inequalities in our society will become even more pronounced.

Energy prices are expected to peak during winter months. As hard-pressed households juggle resources, many will face a choice of eating or heating their home. Lack of heating leaves long-term health problems. Central government has no plans to support hard-pressed households beyond the meagre measures already announced.

Whilst we do not have local powers to change the benefits system or fuel pricing there are some actions we can take locally to help people to keep warm this winter.

The public response to the Covid pandemic and the number of people currently helping out in food banks has shown that local communities feel a need to help others at times of crisis and respond generously to such crises. However, it is very much harder for individuals and communities to respond to fuel poverty than it is to support a food bank.

Homes should be a place of warmth comfort and safety. Heating is an essential and not a luxury. No one should have to leave their home because they can't afford to keep it warm. However, sadly this is the reality that many face. For some this will be disastrous in

a cold winter. It is therefore necessary for the council to take action and plan to meet that need so that we are prepared.

This motion asks the City council to support the development of a community wide local response to assist vulnerable people unable to heat their home to warm up during the day. This could be done by ensuring that welcoming warm places are made available across the city in every community for public use. This could be a public library, a community centre, school, pub or café, sports centres, a church, mosque or other place of worship. It should include outreach to groups of older people, after school and breakfast clubs, parent and baby groups to enable them to participate.

The aim would be to have accessible, well publicised, safe, welcoming, warm places available to those who cannot warm their homes during the day available by the end of October across the whole city.

The Council therefore asks cabinet to

- (i) Work with the Hive, individual volunteers and community groups to form a steering group, develop a plan, raise any funds needed, inform people about warm places, manage the scheme and report back on impact on participants. Start now in order to have warm places available by the end of October across the whole city
- (ii) Provide a list of public buildings (and opening hours) across the city that will be made available as welcoming warm places by the end of August
- (iii) Support the steering group to involve places of worship, cafes, pubs, gyms and other owners/occupiers of warm places to participate in the scheme between November and March.
- (iv) Advertise the scheme as it develops and when it opens on websites, flagship and in other ways

13 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17 (Pages 123 - 124)

David Williams
Chief Executive

Members of the public are permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting nor 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.

Whilst every effort will be made to webcast this meeting, should technical or other difficulties occur, the meeting will continue without being webcast via the Council's website.

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If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact the Local Democracy Manager at Stewart.Aglan@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
11 July 2022