



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



Agenda & minutes

Full Council meeting of
Tuesday, 14 March 2023

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Portsmouth City Council

AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Portsmouth on Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 2.00 pm and all members of the council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the following business detailed from agenda item 1 onwards:-

Public health guidance for staff and the public due to Winter coughs, colds and viruses, including Covid-19

- Following the government announcement 'Living with Covid-19' made on 21 February 2022 and the end of universal free testing from 1 April 2022, attendees are no longer required to undertake any asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting; however, we still encourage attendees to follow the public health 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 any boosters they are eligible for.
- If unwell we encourage you not to attend the meeting but to stay at home. Updated government guidance from 1 April 2022 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 2022, anyone with a positive Covid-19 test result is still being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious.
- We encourage those attendees with an underlying health condition 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 protects us from coughs, colds and winter viruses, including Covid-19.
- 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 28 February 2023**
To follow under separate cover.

- 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 (james.harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting (so Monday, 13 March 2023 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.**
- No questions from the public have been received under the provisions of this Standing Order.
- 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 Contract Procedure Rules (Pages 15 - 58)**
- To receive and consider the recommendations of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee meeting held on 25 January 2023, the recommendations and report for which are attached.
- 9 Capital Strategy 2023/24 - 2032/33 (Pages 59 - 102)**
- To receive and consider the attached report from Cabinet held on 7 March (recommendation to follow)
- 10 Treasury Management Policy 2023/24 (Pages 103 - 140)**
- To receive and consider the attached report from Cabinet held on 7 March (recommendation to follow)
- 11 Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes and Empty Properties (Pages 141 - 156)**
- To receive and consider the attached report from Cabinet held on 7 March (recommendation to follow)
- 12 Anaerobic Digestion Plant Project (Pages 157 - 160)**
- To receive and consider the attached information report from Cabinet held on 7 March.
- This report is being considered by Council following a Notice of Motion agreed by Council on 8 November 2022.
- 13 Forward Plan Omission Notice - Enabling Redevelopment of Former Debenhams, Palmerston Road - Compulsory Purchase Order (Pages 161 - 162)**
- The Enabling Redevelopment of Former Debenhams, Palmerston Road -

Compulsory Purchase Order report by the Director of Regeneration was omitted from the Forward Plan covering 6 February to 5 May 2023. The Chair of the City Council's Scrutiny Management Panel has been notified and a public notice published.

14 Exclusion of Press and Public

“That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, the press and public be excluded for the consideration of the following item on the grounds that the report(s) contain information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972”.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012, regulation 5, the reasons for exemption of the listed item is shown below.

Members of the public may make representation as to why the item should be held in open session. A statement of the Council’s response to representations received will be given at the meeting so that this can be taken into account when members decide whether or not to deal with the item under exempt business.

(NB The exempt/ confidential committee papers on the agenda will contain information which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. Members are reminded of standing order restrictions on the disclosure of exempt information and are invited to return their exempt documentation to the Senbior Local Democracy Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for shredding).

Item	Paragraph
Enabling Redevelopment of Former Debenhams, Palmerston Road - Compulsory Purchase Order Appendix 4	3, 4

15 Enabling Redevelopment of Former Debenhams Palmerston Road - CPO (Pages 163 - 192)

To receive and consider the attached report from Cabinet held on 7 March (recommendation to follow)

16 Appointment of Independent Person (Pages 193 - 196)

To receive and consider the attached report from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 8 March (recommendation to follow)

17 Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 (Pages 197 - 206)

To receive and consider the attached report from Employment Committee held on 9 March (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.

18 Notices of Motion

(a) Tesco Supermarkets - Removal of Recycling Facilities

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor George Madgwick

The city council regrets the decision by Tesco supermarkets to remove recycling facilities from their large Fratton and Port Solent Stores.

Supermarkets sell huge amounts of products in packaging that can be recycled.

Supermarkets should be doing more to cut down on packaging and waste, instead they have removed facilities to allow local residents to recycle at their stores.

The city council regrets the actions of Tesco who seem to be putting company profits before care for the environment and asks Tescos to bring back recycling centres in their Portsmouth stores.

(b) Neighbourhood Policing Matters

Proposed by Councillor Lee Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Dave Ashmore

This Council notes the allocation of funding for each policing area is worked out using a formula. At present Hampshire and IoW Constabulary serving Portsmouth, is disadvantaged by this formula and it has been calculated that as a result the force is underfunded by £41.6 million a year compared to the national average.

Furthermore this Council notes in 2019 the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner wrote to the Government demanding more funding pointing out Hampshire and IoW Constabulary receives a quarter less funding than is needed.

Hampshire and IoW Police Federation commenting on the 'England and Wales Pay and Morale' survey state: Hampshire and IoW is underfunded by £43 million and that its members say morale is low.

This Council regrets that successive Police & Crime Commissioners have closed Police counters across Portsmouth including Southsea, North End, Cosham and City Central and notes the only public counter is now on the Airport Industrial Estate with no public transport, so out of reach unless you have a car or can cycle there.

This Council notes in January 2021 the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner argued for and secured an increase in the police precept levied on local homes of 7.1% to “take the fight to criminals and those blighting our neighbourhoods with anti-social behaviour.”

This Council notes that at the recent Police & Crime Panel they approved a rise of 6.34% sought by the current Police & Crime Commissioner arguing similar reasons as the 2021 needs.

This Council is concerned that, despite ongoing police precept increases, at police/public meetings across Portsmouth residents describe how nothing seems to have changed, how they are kept waiting on 101; that reports of crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods are not investigated. Hampshire and IoW Constabulary publicly admit they prioritise ‘High Harm’ and ‘County Lines’ offences.

This Council welcomes and supports police investigation of High Harm and County Lines crimes and continues to invest in citywide safeguarding cameras to help prevent and detect crime in partnership with city police. Furthermore the Council notes the creation of a new permanent post in the current budget of a specialised Anti-Social Behaviour officer.

This Council supports Hampshire Police Federation, the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner's calls for fair funding for Hampshire and IoW Constabulary.

However this Council is concerned crime and anti-social behaviour is overwhelming our local Neighbourhood Police Teams, and that residents report neighbourhood crimes and anti-social behaviour are not being properly investigated if at all.

Therefore the Council invites the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to a future meeting of this Council to inform us about:

- the current state of recruitment and retention of Police, staff and PCSOs, especially how many extra Police each part of our city will be getting;
- how Neighbourhood policing will be improved. This should be through extra neighbourhood Police officers that reflect local people's priorities;
- how 101 will be improved;

- and how they will open accessible police public contact counters in the accessible locations in the north and south of Portsmouth.

(c) **Extending Safe Spaces for People in Portsmouth**

Proposed by Councillor Charlotte Gerada

Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

Full Council notes:

- Evidence suggests that Portsmouth is generally a safe city for young people. However, we know that recorded crime, actual crime, and fear of crime are different. The fear of crime can make areas that should feel safe and accessible, inaccessible.
- Some parents and young people have told us they worry about issues like drugs, County Lines and antisocial behaviour and their fear of these crimes makes them feel unsafe in some public places. There are also additional concerns and vulnerabilities based on protected characteristics.
- Portsmouth City Council has responsibility to improve safety and life chances among young people. These include:
 - The 'Is This Love' campaign to raise awareness about healthy and unhealthy relationships;
 - Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) which is a peer-led leadership and bystander programme that trains young people as mentors and equips them with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to identify and speak out against bullying, abusive behaviour and violence;
 - Two additional posts in the Edge of Care team to support young women and girls at risk of exploitation and those absent from school;
 - Portsmouth City Council having strong partnership arrangements including with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to reduce the risks of violent crime in the city and Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Southampton Safeguarding partnerships to reduce risks of exploitation to young people;
 - Developing restorative approaches in schools;
 - Developing a youth strategy and adolescent board to improve the council's response to adolescents who may feel at risk;
 - Working closely as a council with youth organisations and charities.

- Portsmouth City Council has a network of safe spaces for young people across the city, including schools, police stations, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, youth centres, play centres and via outreach projects.

Full Council believes:

- Everyone has a right to feel safe in Portsmouth, no matter their background, age, ability or location in the city.
- Portsmouth City Council must do all it can to work with partners to improve public safety, tackle crime and give every person the best possible chance of not just surviving, but thriving in Portsmouth.
- All citizens and sectors in Portsmouth can and should play a role in keeping young people safe, using appropriate collective spaces and willpower to improve public safety.

Full Council resolves:

- (i) To encourage all councillors to promote the existing Portsmouth City Council services, including youth centres, which aim to keep Portsmouth's young people safe and to ensure Portsmouth City Council is proactively promoting such services. This includes Portsmouth City Council updating its website on all live projects;
- (ii) To request that Portsmouth City Council supports schools to speak to young people in age appropriate ways about keeping safe when out in the community;
- (iii) To invite Portsmouth City Council to review its existing schemes to increase public safety for young people and explore if further improvements can be made;
- (iv) To request that relevant external partnership bodies ensure they are meeting their obligations and responsibilities in improving young people's safety in Portsmouth, such as through the Police and Crime Panel; and
- (v) For Portsmouth City Council to endeavour to engage local young people in the development of any new programmes about young people's safety, including with Portsmouth's Youth Cabinet, the Council of Portsmouth Students and the Primary Council of Portsmouth Students.

(d) **Southern Water**

Proposed by Councillor Kimberly Barrett
Seconded by Councillor Abdul Kadir

Sewage dumping into our waterways damages an already delicate ecosystem that we rely on as a coastal city. The consequence these discharges have affect our resident's health and wellbeing, can damage environmental habitats, and harm species all whilst being detrimental to our tourism industry.

Full Council has debated motions in 2019 and 2021 regarding the harmful discharges Southern Water have pumped out into Langstone Harbour. There have been many actions taken forward by the leader of the Council, group leaders, members and the 2 MPs for Portsmouth however, many residents feel that not much notice has been taken by the company and therefore, not much change has happened. Discharges are still occurring, and a recent report jointly undertaken by both Portsmouth University and Brunel University show that drugs such as antidepressants, antibiotics and cocaine are now being detected in animals in the harbour environment. A citizen led project by the clean harbour's partnership called 'Project Spotlight' has been set up to take water samples from the harbour and look at the creatures in this environment to see how those discharges and chemical cocktails are influencing them.

Several organisations have been working to highlight these issues and this council wishes to thank those who have done so including the Stop the Sewage - Southsea group and the Hayling Sewage Watch group. Due to groups such as these, real time signs have been installed at points along Portsmouth Seafront and water testing is also occurring. This is also due to the Council working in partnership with neighbouring councils and the Langstone Harbour Board.

Back in 2021, 750 hours of raw sewage was pumped out of the outflow pipe into Langstone Harbour. So far this year, 305 hours of confirmed sewage discharges have already been sent out into the harbour from Budds Farm. Southern Water was fined £90m due to this in 2021 and in 2022, they were fined a further £28.3m and forced to reduce customer bills.

Consequently, Full Council acknowledges that we are disturbed that discharges continue to happen to this day and continue to happen for significant lengths of time.

The council also acknowledges that funding by the Environmental Agency has been cut almost in half in the last decade. The number of water samples taken has also fallen by 51% and there has been a 94% drop in prosecutions against water companies who continue to illegally discharge affluent into our waters.

Therefore, Full Council asks:

- (i) that Southern Water pay for electronic signs on the seafront to notify bathers if there have been any recent discharges so that individuals can take the decision on whether they wish to swim in the sea and also reimburse any money spent by this council on the signs already put up.
- (ii) That Southern Water also pay for a live update E.coli buoy to be stationed at Southsea beach like the one recently installed at Hayling Island
- (iii) To ask that Southern Water supports the efforts of the Langstone Harbour Board, Portsmouth City Council and Havant Borough Council to find solutions jointly and therefore, pay for regular water testing to see what effect their discharges are having on our marine environment and to meet with all 3 parties to discuss these issues.
- (iv) That Southern Water meet with the Council to discuss their plans going forward for any improvements to Budds Farm and the sewage infrastructure across the city.
- (v) To ask Southern Water to discuss with all members the plans for the proposed wastewater recycling for our drinking water and to ask them to have public events so that the public can have a chance to look at these plans and make an informed decision as part of their consultation. This means that the deadline of the 20th February should also be extended.

Full Council also requests:

- (i) That group leaders sign a letter written by the Council leader to be sent to the Prime Minister, Therese Coffey MP (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), Lord Benyon and Mark Spencer (Minister of State for DEFRA) to remind them of the environmental destruction and ongoing health concerns that these discharges cause. To request they to publicly condemn the water companies who are causing these discharges and to reiterate that a timescale has been requested to end these discharges occurring in our marine environment as quickly as possible.

- (ii) For the Chief Executive to write a letter to the Environment Agency asking them to continue acting against those who illegally discharge sewage into our waterways. To ask them to lobby the government for further funding to allow for more water sampling to occur, for more investigations of suggested illegal dumping to occur and therefore, more prosecutions being able to happen.

(e) **Stop The Knock: local authority debt collection practices**

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery

Seconded by Councillor Kirsty Mellor

Too many Portsmouth households live in constant fear of bailiffs knocking their door. The poorest and most vulnerable suffer disproportionately from debt issues and the local authority should not be actively adding to their woes.

One in two adults with debts has a mental health problem. One in four people with a mental health problem is also in debt. Debt can cause - and be caused by - mental health problems.

Those on the lowest incomes in our city used to be eligible for Council Tax Support for up to 100% of their liability. However this level of support was cut in 2016 so now even the poorest have to pay at least 20% of their total Council Tax bill.

Despite their public service remit, local authorities have some of the most stringent debt collection practices of all creditors. Debts owed to councils often end up in court and Council Tax is the only debt where a debtor can be sentenced to a custodial sentence for non-payment.

In 2018/19, Portsmouth City Council instructed bailiffs to collect debts from individuals and businesses on 17,534 occasions - an increase of 77% since 2016/17. Of these bailiff referrals 6,011 related to Council Tax debts.

There is divergence between local authorities regarding how affordability is assessed and appropriate repayment plans calculated. The Standard Financial Statement (SFS), produced by the Money and Pensions Service, provides a consistent, fair and industry-recognised method of working out affordable repayments, for residents in financial difficulty.

Full Council supports the Money Advice Trust's campaign 'Stop The Knock' and calls on Cabinet to:

- (i) Make a clear public commitment to reduce the council's use of bailiffs over time;
- (ii) Review the council's signposting to free debt advice, including phone/online channels;
- (iii) Adopt the Standard Financial Statement (SFS) to objectively assess affordability;
- (iv) Review the formal policy covering indebted residents in vulnerable circumstances;
- (v) Consider following the example set by other local authorities by exempting Council Tax Support recipients from bailiff action; and
- (vi) Sign the Citizens Advice/LGA 'Council Tax Protocol' and review the authority's current practice against the Money and Pensions Service's 'Supportive Council Tax Recovery' Toolkit.

(f) **Young Carers**

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton

Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Council notes:

- (i) Each year the Carers Trust organises Young Carers Action Day (YCAD) to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young people because of their caring role, and to campaign for greater support for young people and young adult carers to meet their needs.
- (ii) Young Carers Action Day is 15 March 2023 and this year's theme is 'Make Time for Young Carers'
- (iii) Estimates suggest that as many as one in five schoolchildren could be young carers (University of Nottingham 2018), with this number increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (iv) Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young and young adult carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.
- (v) The work that Portsmouth City Council does to support our young carers, including:
 - The Education network meetings in all schools;
 - Learning and Development and Awareness raising;

- Weekly support groups;
- Holiday Activities;
- 1-1 support; and
- Participation in Young Carers Festival

Council resolves:

- (i) To commend the young and young adult carers in Portsmouth;
- (ii) To promote YCAD on an annual basis;
- (iii) To promote and work in partnership with local care organisations like the Carers Centre;
- (iv) To write to the Government calling on them to ensure that young carers are actively identified and provided with the support they need; and
- (v) To write to the local Members of Parliament and ask them to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers.

19 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17. (Pages 207 - 208)

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.

This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's livestream account at <https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785>

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact the Senior Local Democracy Officer at James.Harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
6 March 2023