



Agenda & minutes

Full Council meeting of
Tuesday, 18 July 2023

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Portsmouth City Council

AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on Tuesday, 18 July 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:-

Agenda

- 1 Declaration of Members' Interests**
- 2 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 16 May 2023 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023 (Pages 17 - 44)**
- 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 17 July 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 (none received)**
- 6 Appointments**

Planning Committee - addition to Conservative Group appointments

Councillor Matthew Atkins to be a Standing Deputy on the Planning Committee.
- 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 45 - 66)**

To receive and consider the attached report and recommendation to note for information only from Cabinet held on 27 June 2023.

9 Queen Alexandra (QA) Hospital Emergency Department Support
(Pages 67 - 84)

To receive and consider the attached report and recommendations from Cabinet held on 27 June 2023.

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.

10 Notices of Motion

(a) Neighbourhood Policing Matters

Proposed by Councillor Lee Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

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:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) how Neighbourhood policing will be improved. This should be through extra neighbourhood Police officers that reflect local people's priorities;
- (iii) how 101 will be improved; and
- (iv) how they will open accessible police public contact counters in the accessible locations in the north and south of Portsmouth.

(b) **Save Portsmouth Stroke Recovery Service**

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney
Seconded by Councillor Charlotte Gerada

Full Council notes:

- In the UK there are over 1.2 million stroke survivors. [1]
Stroke can impact anyone, at any age and at any time and is the fourth biggest killer in the UK. [2]
- Portsmouth City Council has funded a Stroke Recovery Service, delivered by the Stroke Association for 14 years.

- Portsmouth stroke survivors and their families have raised concerns about the planned closure of the Portsmouth Stroke Recovery Service, which was announced in April 2023 for closure in June 2023.
- A short temporary extension was put in place in May 2023 by Portsmouth City Council to continue the service until the end of December 2023.
- A campaign and a petition started by a local young stroke survivor to save the recovery service on change.org has been signed by over 1,100 residents. [3]
- The service provides support to survivors and their families. Offering emotional and well-being support, as well as signposting to services and linking access to vital services. [4]
- These services are not only used by the survivors, but their families and caregivers are users too. They provide a support service which is not found elsewhere (such as the NHS) for stroke survivors.
- In the budget consultation research 2023-24 published by Portsmouth City Council about prioritising pandemic recovery it states:
 - ‘Improving health and care for our local communities’ is by far the top priority identified by respondents - over half (54%) would like the council to focus on this area for recovery from the pandemic. [5]
 - Each postcode district selected ‘improving health and care for our local communities’ as their top recovery priority – this corresponds with the full sample level where it is by far the most common priority. [6]
- This service is a lifeline to many and often the only ongoing support available once a patient has been discharged from the community stroke rehabilitation team (NHS) as well as the survivors' families seeking supporting family members with their ongoing recovery.

Full Council believes:

- Portsmouth residents should receive adequate support and access to vital services after a critical illness.
- Portsmouth City Council must do all it can to ensure residents have access to services that support and give

every survivor the best possible chance of recovery.

- It is a priority of the council, Integrated Care Systems and the NHS to engage in more preventative work at the community-level to prevent further health issues and illness.
- Being proactive in engaging stroke survivors in rehabilitation activities, helps to reduce the chances of further strokes and other critical illnesses. This could save healthcare and other services money in the long-term and helps to improve quality of life for stroke survivors, their carers and families.

Full Council Resolves:

- (i) To request that Portsmouth City Council extends the funding for the Portsmouth Stroke Recovery Service for the next 5 years;
- (ii) To invite Portsmouth City Council to further investigate and fully understand what the service provides Stroke survivors and their families as the programme is not something that can be found in other services or the NHS; and
- (iii) Request that Portsmouth City Council reviews budgets and considers the wider financial, economic, social and well being impact closing the service would have on other local services such as mental health, social housing and adult social care.

References

[1] Stroke Association data and statistics: <https://www.stroke.org.uk/what-is-stroke/stroke-statistics#:~:text=Key%20statistics%3A&text=100%2C000%20people%20have%20strokes%20each,stroke%20survivors%20in%20the%20UK>

[2] Brain Research UK statistics

[3] Change.org petition: <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-portsmouth-stroke-recovery-service>

[4] Portsmouth City Council Budget consultation research 2023-24: <https://yourcityyoursay.portsmouth.gov.uk/budget-consultation-research-2023-24/>

[5] As above.

(c) **Continuing Support of Portsmouth Pride**

Proposed by Cllr George Fielding

Seconded by Cllr Mary Vallely

Full Council notes:

- Pride is a political movement about the inclusivity of a marginalised community. While there have been improvements in LGBT+ rights with significant changes both in legislation and policy for LGBT+ people, these protections are currently under threat by potential changes to the Equality Act 2010. [1]
- There has been a sharp increase in hate crime towards LGBT+ people and in particular towards the trans community in recent years. This is having a significant impact on public safety and while the numbers of reported crime are increasing, it's still not possible to quantify the full extent of hate crimes that exist.
- Reports of homophobic hate crimes in England more than doubled in five years, from 10,003 in 2016-17 to 26,824 in 2021-22. [2] Transphobic hate crimes increased by 240% from 1,292 reports in 2016-17 to 4,399 five years later. [3]
- Within Portsmouth there has been growing visibility for the LGBT+ community. This has been demonstrated by the increased attendance at Portsmouth Pride's main day event. In 2017 an estimated 500 attended Portsmouth Pride, compared with 2023 where an estimated 30,000 attended. This increase in attendance is largely down to the community outreach work Portsmouth Pride volunteers has undertaken between 2022-23.
- In South Hampshire, there are five Pride events and Portsmouth Pride is the only large-scale event that is free and unfenced. It's a volunteer-led charity and only operates due to the passion and drive of the volunteers who give up their time to run the event, while ensuring the event reflects the community within Portsmouth.

Full Council believes:

- Portsmouth Pride has demonstrated an exponential trend in community engagement, which can offer the ability to quantify the scope of hate crime in Portsmouth towards the

LGBT+ community.

- Portsmouth Pride is one of the most important events in the city's annual calendar. By being free and unfenced it enables increased intersectional inclusivity. It enables those from global majority or religious backgrounds to attend without fear of repercussions from family or their community.
- Portsmouth Pride celebrates the true diversity of LGBT+ culture in our city, as well as championing the voices of the city's trans community.
- By keeping Portsmouth Pride free, the event plays a critical role in enhancing community cohesion - bringing together people from different backgrounds, economic status and identities.
- Portsmouth City Council should play an active role in ensuring the longevity of this important event and enabling the organisers to hold on to its integrity as a community event.

Full Council Resolves:

- (i) To request that Portsmouth City Council through Cabinet, formally commits to making a financial contribution to Portsmouth Pride Trust, as one of their four main partners, for at least the next five years.
- (ii) To request Cabinet explores the possibility of including Portsmouth Pride as a line item in Portsmouth City Council's annual budget, to provide security and consistency for Portsmouth's LGBT+ community.
- (iii) To request that the Leader of the Portsmouth City Council and all Group Leaders write to Portsmouth Pride Trust trustees and volunteers to thank them for their hard work in making Portsmouth a visible destination for LGBT+ people in the South East.

References

[1] The Guardian, 5 April 2023:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2023/apr/05/what-would-changing-the-equality-act-mean-for-trans-people-and-single-sex-spaces>

[2] Pink News, 15 August 2022:

<https://www.thepinknews.com/2022/08/15/anti-lgbtq-hate-crime-police-uk/>

[3] As above.

(d) **Improving accessibility in Portsmouth taxis for disabled people**

Proposed by Cllr Charlotte Gerada

Seconded by Cllr Yinka Adeniran

Full Council notes:

- (i) Over 1 in 5 people in the UK are disabled. That is over 14 million of us. It is a number that has continued to rise as people are living longer and treatments and technology in healthcare improve.
- (ii) In Portsmouth there are 16,848 people who have a disability or long-term health condition that limits their day-to-day activities a lot. While another 23,088 people have a disability or long-term health condition that limits their day-to-day activities a little. That equates to 19% of people in Portsmouth who have some sort of disability or long-term health condition that meets the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010.
- (iii) Portsmouth Disability Advisory Group (DAG), established at the end of 2022, is a group of disabled people who are keen to identify and act upon issues of concern for disabled people in Portsmouth.
- (iv) Residents have been in touch with DAG to share their stories of living in Portsmouth as a disabled person. Many people who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters have spoken of their difficulties accessing transport in the city, including taxis.
- (v) Everyday journeys – to work, school, to see family and friends, to access essential services like health and care – are fraught with uncertainty for many disabled people.
- (vi) Although there are taxis operating in the city that can accommodate wheelchairs, and drivers who are willing to assist, these seem to be in limited supply. Accessible taxis do not appear to be as easy to acquire during peak periods such as school runs or at the beginning and end of the evening. As a consequence disabled people, and

wheelchair users in particular, are more disadvantaged than the rest of the city's population in their access to transport.

- (vii) In July 2021 the Government published the National Disability Strategy. This national strategy recognises and builds on the progress that has been made since the Disability Discrimination Act was introduced more than 25 years ago. One of the priorities of the strategy is Transport: improving the accessibility and experience of everyday journeys. The Department for Transport's (DfT) Inclusive Transport Strategy, first published in 2018, has also helped to improve accessibility.
- (viii) Disabled people are frequent users of public transport, particularly taxis and private hire vehicles. Nationally, 99% of buses now meet minimum accessibility standards, but the proportion of wheelchair accessible vehicles is 58% in taxi fleets and 2% for private hire vehicles. Disappointingly, these figures have been falling since 2014.

Full Council believes:

- (i) That disability equality should matter to all of us.
- (ii) That disabled people should have equitable access to a good range of transport in Portsmouth.
- (iii) In a social model of disability, recognising that it is society, culture and the nature of social institutions that disables people who have a range of impairments. Impairments include being blind or deaf, having a mobility limitation or a cognitive or neurological difference.
- (iv) The UK's Equality Act 2010 defines a person as 'disabled' if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.
- (v) The focus on 'impairment' is challenged by many disabled people, researchers and disability organisations who highlight how disabled people are 'disabled by society' as a consequence of their impairment. A consequence is that disabled people can be unnecessarily isolated and excluded from full participation in society.
- (vi) It is our duty as civic leaders to listen to disabled peoples' ideas and concerns and do our utmost to make

Portsmouth as accessible as possible for all residents.

Full Council Resolves:

- (i) To ask the Licensing Committee to commission a review into the level and availability of wheelchair accessible taxis in Portsmouth, such review to be undertaken and reported upon within this municipal year - including its policy that may limit or control the number of hackney carriage vehicle licenses it issues - with the aim of improving licensing policy to increase accessibility in taxis for disabled people;
 - (ii) To ask the Licensing Committee to explore and report upon how it can increase take-up of disability awareness training for taxi drivers in Portsmouth;
 - (iii) To ask Group Leaders to attend a meeting with members of the Portsmouth Disability Advisory Group to find out more about accessibility issues in transport for Portsmouth; and
 - (iv) To ask the Leader to invite members of the Portsmouth Disability Advisory Group to the Transport Liaison Group to improve collaboration between transport providers and disability representatives.
- (e) **Armed Forces and the Cost of Living Crisis**

Proposed by Cllr Yinka Adeniran
Seconded by Cllr George Fielding

Our armed forces have a long and proud history of service and dedication to this nation. From deployments to NATO's eastern flank to keeping essential services running at home, service personnel continue to serve our country with courage and distinction.

In Portsmouth in particular, we have a strong naval history that is intertwined with the DNA of the city. Much of our city's population is made of service personnel and veterans. In the South East, there are currently over 25,000 serving in the British Army, Royal Navy/Royal Marines, RAF and Tri-service.

Despite their committed service, our armed forces are being let down by the Conservative government. After a decade of real terms pay cuts, the Conservatives' cost of living crisis, and the delay to this year's Armed Forces pay award has led to Service Personnel being forced to use food banks. This is while forces charities and regimental associations continue to provide cost of living grants and

food vouchers to veterans and their families.

Service personnel have become routinely called upon to cover for a lack of resilience across the public sector and to provide cover for some essential services during industrial action. They do this in the dedicated and professional way we would expect from our forces. Without a right to strike it is the moral duty of their leaders to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant, and the responsibility of elected bodies to uphold their part of this obligation and insist that our service personnel and their families receive the support they need and deserve.

Full Council notes:

- (i) It is deeply concerning that service personnel in Portsmouth are forced to turn to food banks.
- (ii) It is deeply concerning that forces charities and regimental associations continue to have to provide cost of living grants and food vouchers to veterans and their families.

Full Council believes:

We should condemn in the strongest terms the Conservative Government's neglect of our service personnel.

Full Council Resolves:

- (i) To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Defence to release the armed forces pay review board 2023/4 report and pay award that is already two months overdue and to request the government provides additional basic financial support to service personnel by capping food and accommodation charges for the next 12 months.
- (ii) To ask the Leader of the council to write to Portsmouth-based food banks and local forces charities to thank them for supporting armed forces personnel and veterans and to provide information about any further support service personnel can currently access.

(f) **Unauthorised Encampments**

Proposed by Cllr Ryan Brent
Seconded by Cllr Matthew Atkins

An unauthorised encampment is when a group of people move on to a piece of land that they do not own and without consent from the landowner. This is something that has occurred across various areas within Portsmouth and on land owned by the local authority in

recent years.

The council notes that every individual has rights and respects the choices made regarding lifestyle. However, the council condemns the impact unauthorised incursions have on residents within our communities as well as the unnecessary financial expense associated with the processes required.

It is imperative that local authorities ensure robust and appropriate prevention measures are regularly monitored and evaluated to protect taxpayers' money from being wasted.

Therefore, Full Council Resolves that:

- (i) a cross-party working group is created with a remit of ensuring all Portsmouth City Council (PCC) owned land, at risk of unauthorised encampments, is adequately protected from future incursion;
- (ii) the Leader of the council writes to leaders of all authorities in which PCC own land and request collaborative action to identify solutions to this issue;
- (iii) a report, via Cabinet, is brought back within three meetings (by December Council) that highlights:
 - the location and duration of all PCC land unauthorised encampments within the last 7 years;
 - a breakdown of the costs associated to council services within each event, including clean-up thereafter;
 - preventative measures put in place as a response to incursions; and
 - consultation and support conducted with residents in the locality and timeframe of both.

11 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17 (Pages 85 - 88)

David Williams
Chief Executive

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Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
10 July 2023