



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL



# Agenda & minutes

Full Council meeting of  
Tuesday, 14 November 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, 14 November 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 17 October 2023**  
(Pages 13 - 38)
- 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](mailto:james.harris@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting (so Monday 13 November 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**
- 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**

### **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.

## 8 Notices of Motion

### (a) **Portsmouth City Council's support for the Real Living Wage**

Proposed by Councillor George Fielding  
Seconded by Councillor Mary Vallely

This council notes:

Living Wage Week runs from 6-12th November 2023 for the Living Wage Foundation's annual celebration of the Living Wage movement. [1]

The Real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate based on the cost of living. It is voluntarily paid by over 14,000 UK businesses who believe their staff deserve a wage which meets everyday needs.[2]

To reflect the cost of living crisis, the revised rate for the Real Living Wage has recently been announced as £12 per hour for the UK (excluding London).[3]

Portsmouth City Council pays all of its directly employed staff the Real Living Wage rate. This is welcome and should be celebrated. However, the council isn't formally accredited.

Portico was accredited as a Living Wage Employer in August 2023.[4]

A recent Canadian study found that a 1% increase in minimum wages translates into a 0.5% rise in retail sales. Furthermore, living wages increase engagement and productivity, reducing turnover of workers and associated recruitment and training costs.[5]

This council believes:

A hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay and it should keep pace with the cost of living. This gives employees security, stability and helps achieve a better work-life balance.

Paying the Real Living Wage is good for business - it boosts staff productivity and motivation at work, helps to retain existing staff and attract new staff.

The Living Wage is important for Portsmouth - the better paid local residents are, the more likely they'll spend more in the city, strengthening our local economy.

## **This council RESOLVES:**

- (i) To invite the Director of Corporate Services to put out communications celebrating Portsmouth City Council's commitment to paying the Real Living Wage, to mark Living Wage Week;
- (ii) To ask the Employment Committee to re-establish a Living Wage working group involving elected members, council officers and trade unions to scope views to be placed back before the Employment Committee detailing the council's ambitions to become a Living Wage accredited employer; and
- (iii) To ask Cabinet to consider including Real Living Wage accreditation in the upcoming budget setting process to seek sustainable funding.

## **References**

[1] <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-week>

[2] <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage>

[3] <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

[4] <https://portico.co.uk/portico-receives-accreditation-from-the-living-wage-foundation/#:~:text=We%20are%20incredibly%20delighted%20to,exceeds%20the%20National%20Minimum%20Wage>

[5] <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/05/living-wage-business-benefits-unilever/>

## **(b) Age-friendly City Project**

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney  
Seconded by Councillor Yinka Adeniran

This Council notes that the World Health Organisation produced its guide to global age-friendly cities in 2007 (1). In the UK Age UK have produced their own age-friendly communities guide (2).

The Age UK guide defines this as, "Age-friendly communities are places where age is not a barrier to living well and where the environment, activities and services support older people to have opportunities to enjoy life and feel well, participate in society and be valued for their contribution, have enough money to live well, feel safe, comfortable and secure at home and access quality health care".

Portsmouth Pensioners Association (PPA) produced their own document “A local manifesto and action plan to make Pompey an (even more) ‘age-friendly’ place to live” and distributed their publication as widely as possible.

According to PPA, over a year ago the City Council agreed to support the age-friendly city project, but they report that, “despite warm words from leading councillors the initiative has stalled”.

**Council therefore RESOLVES** to request that the Scrutiny Management Panel initiate a short review to discover what has happened to the age-friendly city project.

- 1) [The WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework - Age-Friendly World](#)
- 2) [Age-friendly communities guide | Age UK](#)

(c) **Portsmouth City Council's support for the improvement of women and girl's sport in Portsmouth**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Vallely  
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

The success of the ‘Summer of Women’s Sport 2023’, particularly the English Roses and Lionesses reaching the finals of their respective netball and football World Cup competitions, means a huge spike in participation figures in female team sport.

England Netball reported a 400% increase in website traffic to their ‘session finder’ page in the days following the Roses silver medal. \*

With 28.9% of females in Portsmouth taking part in less than 30mins of activity a week and 51.3% of that figure reporting they’ve taken part in NO activity in the last 28 days\*\*, it is essential that we acknowledge the need for more provision for Portsmouth females to participate in Sport.

The most recent Active Lives Survey, measuring activity levels of adults in England, indicates that the scale of recovery since Covid-19 has varied over different sections of society with women, still less likely to be active than others.

Sport England’s strategy ‘Uniting the Movement’ has a strong focus on tackling inequalities and are committed to investing more in people and places that need extra support.

BH Live’s recent review into the year long campaign to increase female participation to their Pyramids Centre group programme has been deemed a failure, with Covid 19 and the new University of Portsmouth Ravelin Sports Centre sighted as factors, but no further insight has been made available.

The Council commends the passion and commitment of Debbie Laycock, Netball in the Community, for her relentless awareness-raising and pursuit for equality in Portsmouth's Sport & Leisure facilities.

The Council also commends the work of Lizzie Butcher, formerly of BH Live, for her work increasing women's participation in sports in Portsmouth, most notably 'chat over Chai' badminton group that has been so successful with the City's Muslim community and 'Mums & Tots' Netball-based fitness sessions, breaking down the barriers of childcare for Portsmouth's Mums.

The Council also acknowledges the dedication and efforts of Portsmouth's sporting volunteers, without whom much of the activity and sport that does go ahead in Portsmouth, wouldn't be organised. Thank you to all Portsmouth's sporting volunteers.

**Council RESOLVES to ask the relevant Cabinet Members/Portfolio Leads:**

- (i) To work with Portsmouth's education establishments to ensure equality in their community use sports facilities, support and find solutions to facility issues and ensure these issues do not impact on pupil/ student sports participation;
- (ii) Review and, where appropriate, seek to increase the provision of space for female sports participants in Portsmouth. Put in place measures for success and ensure any new leisure provider contract includes female provision targets; and
- (iii) Offer support to Portsmouth's sport and leisure facility providers on how to improve gender equality in sport, in an attempt to reduce barriers to Portsmouth female participation in sport and activity. Portsmouth female participation in sport and activity.

*\*England Netball*

*\*\*Active Lives Survey published in April 2023, Portsmouth figures supplied by Energise Me*

(d) **Supporting Local Producers**

Proposed by Councillor Benedict Swann

Seconded by Councillor Cllr Lewis Gosling

Portsmouth City Council recognises and notes the huge contribution made by our regional farmers, growers and wider food and drink industry to our local economy, environment and wider rural communities.

**Therefore, Portsmouth City Council commits to further enhancing our partnerships alongside local arable, livestock, and dairy farmers to enhance our magnificent countryside by:**

(i) committing to support our local farmers, growers and food and drink sector by, where possible, ensuring that all food and drinks provided at council organised events is sourced from local suppliers; to always include meat and dairy, alongside plant-based produce;

(ii) As part of tackling the environmental priorities for Portsmouth City Council; The Council will consider ways to encourage residents, where possible, to shop locally, taking advantage of home-grown, affordable and nutritious produce, including meat, dairy and plant based options. Thus reducing food miles to our tables and boosting the local economy; and

(iii) requesting that the Cabinet Member investigates the possibility of local small businesses and producers being able to display and sell their products in the vicinity the Portsmouth Cruise Terminal so as to champion our fantastic local produce to visitors to the city and raise the city's profile as the gateway not just to our historical goldmine of a city, but to the wider Hampshire area.

(e) **Chloe's Motion**

Proposed by Councillor Kirsty Mellor  
Seconded by Councillor Cal Corkery

Full Council notes

That domestic abuse isn't always physical. Coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a victim.

This form of controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent on a perpetrator by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour.

This form of abuse can continue even after a relationship has formally ended.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the severe impact coercive control has on those subjected to it by perpetrators, including the introduction of a specific criminal offence. Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 (SCA 2015) created the offense of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate family relationship.



In January 2023, Portsmouth resident Chloe Holland took her life after a year's worth of coercive and controlling behaviour from her partner.

The cause of domestic abuse suicide can be complex; nevertheless, in France, there is a specific offence of causing suicide as a result of domestic abuse; if domestic abuse is a prominent factor, the perpetrator can expect a sentence of up to 10 years. No such law exists in the UK. Although case law does exist that allows prosecution for manslaughter in certain circumstances, in practice this rarely happens.

Chloe's mother, Sharon Holland, is now campaigning to raise awareness of the impact of coercive control and calling for more severe consequences for perpetrators where victims subjected to the abuse end up taking their lives.

The charity Women's Aid has also called for action to ensure sentences for coercive control reflect the severity of the crime and hold perpetrators accountable.

The full extent of domestic abuse-related suicide is unknown, and research undertaken by Refuge provides detailed, substantial evidence on the prevalence of suicidal ideation and attempts amongst domestically abused people in the UK.

Full Council believes:

Coercive control is a severe form of domestic abuse, and it is crucial perpetrators face legal consequences in line with the suffering and damage they have caused to victims and their families.

Where victims of coercive control take their lives as a result of that abuse, perpetrators should face suitable punishment, including manslaughter charges where appropriate.

The police must treat all sudden deaths of those known to be victims of domestic abuse as potential homicide from the outset.

There are consistent failures to investigate suicides in the context of domestic abuse despite the mechanisms to do so.

**Full Council RESOLVES:**

- (i) To request the Leader of the Council write to Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, Portsmouth South MP Stephen Morgan and Portsmouth North MP Penny Mordaunt and ask them to use their influence with the government to lobby to ensure perpetrators of coercive control receive sentences which reflect the severity of their crimes and charges of manslaughter where appropriate; and

- (ii) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary on behalf of Portsmouth City Council to request the government consider creating a specific statutory offense of manslaughter by coercive or controlling behaviour.

(f) **FFC PathFinder**

Proposed by Councillor Simon Bosher  
Seconded by Councillor Lewis Gosling

The Families First for Children Pathfinder (FFC Pathfinder) is the delivery mechanism for testing implementation of some of the most significant reforms to how children and families are supported and protected.

The FFC Pathfinder provides local areas with the opportunity to be at the heart of work to transform family help and children's social care, working together with central government to influence future reforms in safeguarding partners, family help, child protection, and family networks.

To date, over £45 million of funding has been made available for the FFC Pathfinder to design and test reforms set out in Stable Homes, Built on Love.

Portsmouth was being encouraged to apply for this due to interest in programmes devised by Portsmouth third sector.

Portsmouth has third sector organisations such as The Roberts Centre which provides support for children, families, young people and vulnerable adults from across Portsmouth and the surrounding area who are keen to access this funding, but are unable to apply directly.

Where PCC is the only organisation through which applications can be made the onus is on them to apply if there is demand from Portsmouth's third sector.

**This Council calls on the administration to:**

- (i) Submit a formal bid to The Government for Wave 2 of the Pathfinder funding if there is still a chance to do so or if upon further consideration the decision is not to make such an application refer back to Council the rationale for such a stance being taken;
- (ii) If an application cannot be made or the time for submission extended, then council seeks to encourage Cabinet to take all reasonable steps to access DoE funding to support additional local programmes; and

(iii) Agree that the City Council, with reference to applications for funding support requests from third sector providers to either align and support such applications or take the lead in making them and progressing such funding requests as are deemed feasible when considering the overall corporate plans and focus of the Administration.

## 9 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

Natalie Brahma-Pearl  
Chief Executive

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

Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
PORTSMOUTH  
6 November 2023