

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall  
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 13 November 2018 at 2.00 pm

**Council Members Present**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Lee Mason (in the Chair)

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Ian Lyon
Simon Boshier	Leo Madden
Jennie Brent	Hugh Mason
Ryan Brent	Gemma New
Tom Coles	Steve Pitt
Yahiya Chowdhury	Darren Sanders
Ben Dowling	Jeanette Smith
Ken Ellcome	Lynne Stagg
Jason Fazackarley	Judith Smyth
George Fielding	Luke Stubbs
John Ferrett	Ben Swann
David Fuller	David Tompkins
Scott Payter-Harris	Claire Udy
Hannah Hockaday	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Jo Hooper	Steve Wemyss
Suzy Horton	Matthew Winnington
Frank Jonas BEM	Neill Young
Donna Jones	Tom Wood

**69. Declarations of Interests under Standing Order 13(2)(b)**

Councillor Neill Young declared an interest in agenda item 12(b) as he is employed by a charity that runs two schools and would leave the chamber for that item.

**70. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 October 2018**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 16 October 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 16 October 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

## **71. Communications and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Rob Wood, Councillor Robert New, Councillor Will Purvis, Councillor James Fleming and Councillor Stephen Morgan.

Councillor Udy sent apologies as she would be arriving to the meeting late. The Lord Mayor gave detailed information concerning filming in the chamber and reiterated the council's rules which strictly prohibit the filming, photographing or recording of members of the public unless they are addressing the meeting and only then if they do not actively object. Filming from gallery to gallery is also prohibited. The Lord Mayor advised that in order to assist online viewers a webcast camera will take an overview of members in the chamber when any voting takes place.

The Lord Mayor then gave details of the evacuation procedure and reminded everyone that there are building evacuation signs displayed both inside the public galleries and in the chamber itself. He advised that the evacuation assembly point for this meeting is in Victoria Park in view of the ice rink being set up in Guildhall Square.

The Lord Mayor informed members that Dr Konrad Schilling sadly died on 2 November 2018. As Duisburg's director of culture, Dr Schilling played a major part in the Duisburg link with a particular emphasis on culture. He designed many of the cultural exchanges especially in the anniversary years of 1980 and 1990.

Finally, the Council Leader advised that yesterday in London, on behalf of the Council, he had received the Gold Award for Employer recognition on the Armed Forces Covenant Scheme. The Council placed on record its thanks to everyone in the Council for achieving this award.

## **72. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The City Solicitor advised that one deputation request had been made for this meeting from Honorary Alderman Attrill - speaking on notice of motion 12(e) - Personal Independence Payment and Employment and Support Allowance. Honorary Alderman Attrill was invited to make his deputation which he then did.

## **73. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25**

There were no questions from the public.

## **74. Appointments**

There were no appointments.

## **75. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

Before the next item, Councillor Winnington indicated that he wished to raise a point under Standing Order 40(c). Consequently

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

To move Standing Order 40(c) to vary the order of the agenda to consider notice of motion (e) immediately before notice of motion (a) as he had to leave the meeting early to catch a train to Manchester in connection with council business.

Upon being put to the vote this was agreed, but has been kept in its original place in the minutes for ease of reference.

## **76. Recommendations from Cabinet from its meeting held on 6 November 2018**

Minute 51 - Treasury Management Mid-Year Review

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 6 November 2018 be accepted.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

### **RESOLVED that**

- (1) If the carrying (market) value of an investment property falls below the original value of unsupported borrowing incurred to acquire the investment property excluding fees and other associated costs, minimum revenue provision (MRP) will be charged over the residual life of the property on the shortfall between the current property value and the value of borrowing.**
- (2) Minimum revenue provision (MRP) be provided on equity shares over 25 years on an annuity basis.**
- (3) It be noted that there have been no breaches of the Treasury Management Policy 2018/19 in the period up to 30 September 2018.**
- (4) The actual Treasury Management indicators for September 2018 in Appendix A be noted.**

Minute 53 - Income Generation Strategy 2018/19 to 2023/24

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 6 November 2018 be accepted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

To

"Add a third recommendation

(3) - The Cabinet bring a report back to Full Council detailing "how" the objectives outlined in the report will be fulfilled."

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume the amendment into it.

Upon the substantive proposal being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that**

- (1) The proposed Income Generation Strategy 2018/19 - 2023/24 is approved;**
- (2) The underpinning financial framework required to support the delivery of the Income Generation Strategy and the wider Medium Term Financial Strategy is noted.**
- (3) The Cabinet bring a report back to Full Council detailing "how" the objectives outlined in the report will be fulfilled.**

**77. Recommendations from the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 2 November 2018 - Responsibility for Functions - section 5c Proper officer/Statutory Appointments**

This was approved unopposed.

**78. Waiver of 6 month councillor attendance rule (Sec.85 Local Government Act 1972)**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
 Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

**"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 debate may contain information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972."**

Following debate, upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Council moved to exempt session at 3.05 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor Vernon-Jackson  
 Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling  
 That Council extends Councillor Fleming's period of office beyond the six month period of non-attendance provided for within Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds of ill health and that the extension of time be for a period which expires at midnight on 30 May 2019

As an amendment

It was proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
 Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

To

Amend proposal delete "30 May 2019" and replace with "20 March 2019".

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the amendment was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive motion incorporating the amendment being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Council extends Councillor Fleming's period of office beyond the six month period of non-attendance provided for within Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds of ill health and that the extension of time be for a period which expires at midnight on 20 March 2019.**

Council resumed in open session at 4.20 pm.

The City Solicitor advised that in exempt session, council had agreed and voted to adopt the above resolution.

## **79. Notices of Motion**

The Lord Mayor advised that there were five notices of motion before council today. (Although notice of motion (e) was discussed first following the variation agreed under Standing Order 40(c), for ease of reference, in the minutes they have been kept in their original order.)

**(a) Ofsted inspection - Children and Families Directorate**

It was

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

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

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

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

Following debate, upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED unanimously.

**RESOLVED that the following notice of motion be adopted.**

**"Portsmouth City Council's Children and Families Directorate was recently inspected by Ofsted under the new ILACS inspection framework, this took place between 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. It is with great pride after the publication of the report, Portsmouth City Council can say that the service that children and families receive is now overall good.**

**Over the last four years the previous Conservative Administration worked hard to improve standards in Children's Social Care. This followed an inspection which took place between 25<sup>th</sup> June - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 ,just 21 days after the new administration had been formed. The rating of the service was 'Requires Improvement'.**

**A new strategy and focus was introduced to improve the service which involved a new senior management team being appointed. The approach adopted by the previous Conservative administration involved targeting specialist help to 'families in need', as a way of supporting children remaining with their families and avoiding them being taken into the care of the Local Authority. The strategy over the last four years has led to the first overall 'Good' Ofsted rating of the service since the 2010 Children's Services Annual Assessment.**

**This council therefore,**

- 1. Places on record its sincerest congratulations and appreciation to all of the hard-working officers involved within the Children and Families Directorate who achieved an overall good inspection outcome for the city**

2. **Recognises that the inherited Conservative strategy facilitated the 2018 inspection outcome under the current Liberal Democrat administration**
3. **Encourages all members to continue to embrace their responsibilities as corporate parents**
4. **Asks the cabinet and lead member to continue to support and prioritise the work of the Children and Families Directorate."**

**(b) School Cuts**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton  
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

That notice of motion (b) be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton  
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Judith Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Tom Coles

**"Amendments to the first half of the motion**

1. Add as second point 'PCC notes the disproportionate effect on children with SEN. Funding for children with SEN is inadequate because there are more children and young people with SEN and rising numbers presenting with higher needs than in the past. Failing to support these children will result in family problems and fewer people being able to cope without enormous support for the rest of their lives'.
2. Add as final point 'We owe it to our children and young people not to stand back and let these cuts happen. Young people only get one chance at school and college and we know that school and college cuts never heal. The next generation in our city deserve better'

**Amendments to the resolutions**

3. Add as fourth resolution 'To welcome the Member of Parliament for Portsmouth South's ongoing campaign against school and college cuts

and fully supports his longstanding campaign to resist the Government's ongoing cuts to education budgets in the city'

4. Add as fifth resolution 'To support the NEU and coalition of other trade unions, parents, school governors and residents against school cuts'
5. Amend the final (now sixth) resolution by deleting 'city's two MPs' and substituting 'MP for North Portsmouth'.

As a further amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Gemma New

"Add after paragraph 4

PCC notes the government's intention to introduce a National Funding Formula for schools, following on from announcements by then Liberal Democrat MP, David Laws, in 2013. It notes that this was the policy of both parties in the coalition government."

The mover of the original motion, Councillor Suzy Horton accepted into it the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Jones.

As a further amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Ben Swann

"Paragraph 1 delete all the words after "Portsmouth City Council notes that" and replace with

"the public finances continue to be in deficit. Despite the ongoing pressure to balance the national accounts, schools funding has been protected, keeping pace both with inflation and increasing pupil numbers. Over the next two years, school funding will rise by over £2bn to a record £43.5bn by 2019/20."

Delete paragraphs 2 and 3

Paragraph 4: delete all the words after the word "Chancellor"

Change the recommendations to

Delete recommendations 1 and 3".

Following debate, upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Judith Smyth being put to the vote, this was LOST. Following debate, upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Luke was LOST.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Notice of Motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Donna Jones was CARRIED.



**RESOLVED** that the following notice of motion be adopted.

**"Portsmouth City Council notes that, as a result of ongoing Government Cuts, Portsmouth schools have lost over £3.7m in overall funding between 2015 and 2020, with the schools in the most deprived areas experiencing bigger cuts.**

**PCC knows that this loss of money can result in increasing classroom sizes, staff losses, reductions in SEN funding and the narrowing of the curriculum.**

**PCC notes all the work that finance officers and Schools Forum have done to mitigate the worst impact of the transition to the National Funding Formula locally and the efforts schools make on a daily basis to protect children from the cuts.**

**PCC notes the £400m allocated as 'in year bonuses' to all schools in the recent Budget by the Chancellor, and whilst acknowledging that something is better than nothing, asserts that this is a distraction from the serious issue of long term underfunding of schools.**

**PCC notes the government's intention to introduce a National Funding Formula for schools, following on from announcements by then Liberal Democrat MP, David Laws, in 2013. It notes that this was the policy of both parties in the coalition government.**

**PCC resolves to:**

**Resist the Government's on-going cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education  
Call on the Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers**

**Support all schools and organisations campaigning against cuts**

**Ask the city's two MPs to seek to ensure that the government provides better funding for schools".**

**(c) School Attendance**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton  
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton

Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders

Seconded by Councillor Jeanette Smith

To replace in the second paragraph the word "below" with "above".

The mover of the motion agreed to subsume the amendment into it.

Following debate, upon the substantive notice of motion being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the following notice of motion be adopted**

**"Portsmouth City Council believes that educational outcomes for children are better when they attend school regularly, so that they can benefit from all the opportunities both in terms of gaining qualifications and wider social and emotional development.**

**The council notes that, whilst attendance has increased in the last few years, Portsmouth absence rates are still above average with 1 in 5 children missing at least a week's school through unauthorised absence last year.**

**The newly launched Portsmouth City Council two year attendance campaign,**

**'Miss School, Miss Out' (#missschoolmissout) aims to reduce the number of absences in Portsmouth schools by focusing on aspirational and hard hitting messages of the importance of school attendance.**

**The aspirational 'What could you become?', together with the "Your life depends on it", themes, highlight to children and parents the seriousness of non-attendance on future opportunities.**

**PCC resolves to ask the Cabinet to support the campaign by:**

**engaging with schools and local communities in challenging absenteeism to encourage city-wide consistency with the campaign**

**Using social media, working alongside Headteachers and other staff in every ward in the city to roll out and enhance the campaign  
Promoting Portsmouth as a city where school attendance and quality of education is a top priority and source of pride."**

**(d) Town Centres**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

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

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the following notice of motion be adopted**

**"Council notes the ongoing nationwide shift in spending power away from High Streets and towards online and out-of-town shopping. It notes that town and city centres across the country have contracted in recent years and that regrettably Portsmouth is no exception.**

**Council therefore welcomes the Chancellor's announcement of a reduction by a third in business rates for retail premises, restaurants and pubs with a rateable value below £51,000. It also welcomes the government's new Future High Streets Fund, which will make £675m available of investment money to support High Streets across England.**

**While the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has not yet published details of how the fund will work, Council calls on the Cabinet to draw up a bid or bids once the criteria become clear."**

**(e ) Personal Independence Payment and Employment and Support Allowance**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Claire Udy

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Claire Udy

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

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the following notice of motion be adopted**

**"This council expresses severe concern at the effect on local residents being turned down for Personal Independence Payment and Employment and Support Allowance as a result of decisions made on the back of medical assessments.**

**This is putting many Portsmouth people in serious financial difficulty and having a really detrimental impact on people's mental and physical health.**

**Of most concern is that if people do get turned down for Personal Independence Payment or Employment and Support Allowance that should they go through the appeal process then 53% of Employment and Support Allowance claimants are successful with their appeals in Portsmouth and 75% of Personal Independence Payment claimants. This adds up to a staggering cost of between £249,100 and £274,750 in administration monetary cost alone for the Mandatory Reconsideration and Appeal processes on top of the confusion, anxiety and damage to daily life the delay in getting the benefit they are entitled to.**

**With Universal Credit rolling out these consequences of these dreadful decisions by the Department for Work and Pensions will only get worse with the money available less for the majority of disabled Universal Credit claimants compared to Employment and Support Allowance.**

**This council therefore asks Cabinet to commit to call on the Department for Works and Pensions to immediately completely review its decision making process so that correct decisions are made straight away for Portsmouth people rather than people only getting paid after a lengthy and costly appeal process. This will be done by a letter and ongoing lobbying from any members of this council who wish to sign it to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions."**

**80. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

**Question 1 was from Councillor Simon Boshier**

"At cabinet and portfolio meetings, all Cabinet members have the ability to accept, reject or amend the recommendations contained within a public report.

Does the Leader consider it appropriate for a Cabinet Member to change the main body of a public report at a public meeting in order to remove a declaration of Interest?"

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

**Question 2 was from Councillor Hannah Hockaday**

"Would the Cabinet Member for education please update the council on the progress of the 'Forest School' - as initiated by the Conservative Administration?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Suzy Horton.

**Question 3 was from Councillor Scott Payter-Harris**

"Could the chair of Licensing please confirm when the next Taxi Licensing Policy review will be heard, with input following discussions and recommendations from the taxi trade?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Chair of Licensing, Councillor David Fuller.

**Question 4 was from Councillor Tom Coles**

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

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Ben Dowling.

**Question 5 was from Councillor Judith Smyth**

"Is the Cabinet satisfied with the recent changes to rubbish collection in the southern part of the City and what plans are there to prevent uncollected rubbish bags from piling up as has happened recently?"

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

**Question 6 was from Councillor Jo Hooper**

"When were Hatherley Road and Dryden Avenue last resurfaced as part of the PFI programme?"

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

**Question 7 was from Councillor Simon Boshier**

"Would the Cabinet member outline the process involved when determining the boundaries of a proposed resident's parking zone?"

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

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**Question 8 was from Councillor Scott Payter-Harris**

"Could the Cabinet member please confirm what events are being planned in May next year to celebrate 825 years since Richard I granted Portsmouth a charter?"

This was answered by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Jeanette Smith.

**The 45 minutes allowed for questions expired before the remaining questions could be put and so in accordance with Standing Order 17(h), written replies would be circulated to members.**

The Lord Mayor thanked members and advised that refreshments would be available in the parlour.

The meeting concluded at 7.35 pm.

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Lord Mayor