

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held remotely on  
Tuesday, 21 July 2020 at 2.00 pm

**Council Members Present (virtually)**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Rob Wood (Chair)

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Terry Norton
Matthew Atkins	Leo Madden
Chris Attwell	Stephen Morgan
Simon Boshier	Gemma New
Tom Coles	Robert New
Cal Corkery	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
Jason Fazackarley	Darren Sanders
George Fielding	Jeanette Smith
David Fuller	Lynne Stagg
Scott Payter-Harris	Judith Smyth
Graham Heaney	Luke Stubbs
Hannah Hockaday	Benedict Swann
Suzy Horton	Linda Symes
Lee Hunt	Claire Udy
Frank Jonas BEM	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Donna Jones	Steve Wemyss
Hugh Mason	Matthew Winnington
Lee Mason	Tom Wood
	Neill Young

**General Procedural Announcements**

Link to the agenda

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MId=4264&Ver=4>

The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting that is being held virtually in response to the limitations placed on government by the Covid-19 pandemic. He advised that the meeting would be run by reference to the model standing orders as set out in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings Regulations 2020. The Lord Mayor then ran through the etiquette relating to virtual meetings.

## **50. Declaration of Members' Interests**

Councillor Will Purvis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(b) in that he works for a developer affected by these changes so will not take part in this debate.

Councillor Ben Dowling declared a pecuniary interest in agenda items 16(e) and 16(l) as he is a director of a company delivering youth work within the city. In relation to item 16(e) he would withdraw from the debate and in relation to 16(l) a dispensation had been granted so that he could stay for the debate as no direct financial decision was being made.

Councillor Jeanette Smith declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(f) in that she is a paid official of Hampshire Unison Branch so cannot participate in the debate.

Councillor Donna Jones declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(a) in that it affects the place where she works - the court house next to the police station and would therefore take no part in the debate.

Councillor David Fuller declared a personal interest in agenda item 16(f) in that runs a care home but had received advice and was able to participate in the debate for that item.

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a non-pecuniary and non-prejudicial interest in item 16(c) regarding thanks to the NHS as he works in the NHS.

Councillor Scott Payter-Harris declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(b) in that he works for a major distributor in the housing market and so would not take part in this debate.

Councillor Judith Smyth declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(f) in that she is a member of Unison.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 16(f) (as set out on her declaration of interests form) and would therefore take no part in the debate.

## **51. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 19 May 2020**

It was

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

That the minutes of the annual council meeting held on 19 May 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

These were agreed by assent.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual council meeting held on 19 May 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**52. To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors John Ferrett and Jo Hooper. The Lord Mayor also advised that Councillor Young had said he needed to leave the meeting by 7.00 pm, Councillor Fuller advised that he needed to leave the meeting by 5.00 pm, Councillor Morgan said he would be participating in the meeting when his parliamentary business allowed. Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson said that Councillor Jason Fazackarley apologised but he would be late in joining the meeting.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson asked to speak at this point and the Lord Mayor agreed. Councillor Vernon-Jackson wanted to record thanks on behalf of the council concerning the good news that Bio Pure Technologies were moving to Dunsbury Park and would be building a major new manufacturing facility there creating many new jobs.

It was  
proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

that thanks be recorded to all the team who had worked so hard to secure this investment.

This was agreed by assent.

**53. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The Lord Mayor advised that eight written deputations had been received for this meeting (excluding the petition items to be dealt with later). These had all been previously circulated and are as follows:

1. Peter De Sousa - item 16 b)
2. Peter De Sousa - item 16 d)
3. Richard White, Unite Union - item 16f)
4. Jon Woods, Unison Union - item 16f)
5. Mariam Daniel - items 16g) and 16i)
6. Freida McCormack - item 16g)
7. Jake Kelly on behalf of someone else - item 16 h)
8. Simon Magorian - item 16k)

In accordance with standing orders Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager read out in turn all the written deputations.

The Lord Mayor thanked everyone who had submitted a deputation.

**54. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25**

Three public questions had been received.

The first two were interrelated questions from Honorary Alderman Thompson and were read out by the Local Democracy Manager.

Q1

"Portsmouth City Council has introduced a number of schemes and activities to encourage recycling over recent years, such as the introduction of the black and green wheelie bins. Whilst these have improved recycling rates in the City, according to the ONS, in 2018/19, less than 30 per cent of our rubbish was recycled, which is one of the worst records across England. By way of comparison, Surrey Heath BC and Vale of the White Horse DC, have recycling rates above 60 per cent for the same period and Guildford BC, Oxfordshire CC and Milton Keynes Council, all of which are in the South East, have recycling rates in the high 50s. One way to encourage more recycling might be to allow our residents and visitors to recycle when they are visiting the shops, the Common and Seafront, or the many wonderful places in our City, but currently they can't as we do not seem to have public bins designed for recycling. Therefore would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change instruct his officers to investigate the cost and potential benefits of a) replacing some of the rubbish bins in the City with recycling bins, b) creating two separate internal compartments within the existing bins so that one side can be used for dry recycling and the other remains available for rubbish, c) introducing new bins that allow for recycling as well as rubbish as used by some other local authorities, or d) a mixture of the above?"

Q2

"Will he further instruct his officers to examine how such a change might impact on the cost of collecting and disposing of this rubbish as landfill tax rose again last April to nearly £95 per tonne and will in all likelihood increase in future years, so reducing what we throw away might deliver a saving to the taxpayers of Portsmouth?"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

The Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Ashmore, provided his oral response to these questions.

The third question was from Selma Heimedinger and was read out by the Local Democracy Manager.

Q3

"Are we on track to reach carbon net zero by 2025? Or even by 2030?"

The Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Ashmore, provided his oral response to this question.

## 55. Appointments

**RESOLVED that Councillor Attwell is replacing Councillor Vernon-Jackson as a Full member of the Planning Committee and Councillor Horton is replacing Councillor Attwell as a standing deputy.**

It was noted that Councillor Benedict Swann has become the Conservative Group Spokesperson for the Resources portfolio.

**56. Petition - Title "Accessible Beach 4 Pompey"**

This item had been held over from the last ordinary meeting as agreed with the lead petitioner. The lead petitioner, Mr John Cullen, presented the petition.

The Administration's response to the petition was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Pitt and  
Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Following debate, there were no objections to the response which was therefore agreed by general assent.

**RESOLVED that the Administration's response to the petition as set out below, be agreed.**

**"The City Council welcomes this petition and shares the objective that all residents should be able to access the beach and the sea, as long as this is safe. The City Council is pleased to have met and spoken with the residents producing this petition on a number of occasions and to have been supportive of the objectives in the petition both in regards to the actions which we have been able to implement to date and also to share the wider research we have undertaken.**

**The City Council has already provided two new access areas across the beach for wheelchair users including the necessary associated changes to the immediate vicinity such as disabled parking bays, replacement of sections of matting and the introduction of a turning circle of matting on the Eastney stretch. As soon as current circumstances allow Shop Mobility will have a presence on the seafront to further facilitate access through their pre-bookable mobility scooter service.**

**The beach is an active and complex moving form, especially the closer you get to the sea where even the more stable shingle at the Eastney end has sharply sloping banks down to the sea. At times the direction and volume of movement of the beach shingle changes. Providing an access point that does not move, on top of a beach that does move is technically difficult. Officers have linked to a number of projects both in the UK and further afield with similar technical challenges to explore solutions and share information. We are aware of some trials this summer in England which we hope might identify potential solutions for similar shingle landscapes with an all-terrain wheelchair option from the United States. We will report back through the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development's portfolio decision meeting later this year with an update on what we have discovered from these trials.**

**It is really important that the City Council puts resident's safety first, and that any access across the beach is safe, particularly for residents with health needs. The City Council cannot provide a solution where the advice we receive is that this is not safe to use. To the best of our knowledge the successful beach access schemes in the UK are all on sandy beaches although there is also much we can learn from these schemes about the breadth of infrastructure needed to support full access.**

**The rebuilding of the Southsea sea defences gives us an opportunity to be able to build in disabled access in a way that has not been done before and the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development has arranged for two members of the Portsmouth Disabled Access group to join the stakeholder advisory group for the Coastal Defence Scheme and an invitation has also been extended to Portsmouth Disability Forum and accepted. This is however a long term solution but we will continue to work to provide disabled access to the beach and seashore in a safe and manageable way."**

**57. Petition - Title Make Portsmouth Streets Safe**

The lead petitioner, Dr Jonathan Lake, presented the petition.

Written deputations received from Dr Buckley, Dr Green, Reverend Canon White and Ms Collinson were read out by the Local Democracy Manager.

The Administration's response to the petition was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynne Stagg.

Following debate, there were no objections to the response which was therefore carried by general assent.

**RESOLVED that the Administration's response to the petition as set out below, be agreed.**

**"Can I first put on record my thanks to Dr Jonathan Lake for presenting the petition here today and for all those involved in the campaign. It has been good to talk with Dr Lake, and other members of the Pompey Street Space campaign to understand the specific requests they have and to look to addressing these issues as well as those mentioned in the petition.**

**From the beginning, can I say that the administration here at the City Council agrees with the overall aim of the campaign and looks forward to working constructively with like minded people to achieve the aims.**

**Air pollution is a real problem here in Portsmouth. There are debates about the levels of air pollution, and we will see a report soon that says that in most parts of the city air quality improved in 2019, whilst many**

thought it would get worse. But we have a real issue here, and we have real hotspots that exceed Government targets. But even if we did not we should be taking action to reduce air pollution. The City Council has some power to do this, the Government much more, but there are some things that are probably out of either the Council's or the Government's control. But we need to do the things we can to help improve air quality, and we will.

Secondly the petition talks about making our city safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Again this is an aim that the administration here at the City Council agrees with and supports. If we can encourage more journeys to be taken in the city on foot, bike or bus this reduces congestion, improves road safety and reduces air pollution.

The City Council has made significant strides to achieve the objectives of this petition already.

For example:

- The closures of Castle Road to cars to encourage safe shopping.
- The closure to vehicles of the Somers Rd North bridge across the railway to make cycling along Sydenham Terrace and Canal Walk safer
- The closure to vehicles of two sections of the seafront road to allow for social distancing by pedestrians and cyclists.
- Creation of social distancing spaces outside pubs and restaurants by removing some parking spaces
- Closing Isambard Brunel Rd and Guildhall Walk to cars to allow for social distancing of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Consulting with retailers and residents about the closure of Palmerston Rd South to vehicles to support these retailers and support social distancing.
- Writing to all Head Teachers to ask them if they would like to work with the City Council in creating Schools Streets outside their schools.
- Creating the first Play Street in Portsmouth on Francis Avenue
- The inclusion of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in the LTP4 programme, and in effect has already created one in Central Southsea.

I have met with Dr Lake and others from the Pompey Street Space Campaign and with Rachel Hudson from Portsmouth Friends of the Earth. I'm really pleased to have had these discussions and to have heard specific requests from them. They are:

1. To establish a cross-party working group to agree a citywide healthy transport strategy that can survive our yearly electoral cycles. This group should engage with our largest city employers to build healthy travel into the everyday lives of people who work in the city.

2. **To build joined up strategic cycle routes that are physically divided from cars, well maintained and linked to safe cycle storage. These routes need to be so safe that a competent 12-year-old child will be happy to use them alone and their parents won't have to worry about them.**
3. **The implementation of a programme similar to School Streets for each of our primary city schools. Our children's drop off and pick up time needs to be safe not only for social distancing but from air pollution and road danger.**
4. **To look at creating Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in the city.**
5. **Look at creating 20mph zones in shopping streets to make pedestrians and cyclists feel safer.**

**I am happy to support each of these five requests, we will need to look at the practicalities of all of these. Having physically separated cycle lanes will be more expensive than the current model, and the City Council will be able to do fewer cycle lanes if we do this, but the ones put in may be more popular and therefore more successful. I think the cross party group is a good idea, and to show the level of support for this from the Administration at the City Council I will volunteer to serve on this so that we can have a whole council view of how to implement things, not just from one department. There are existing plans around transport planning and many other things, and the creation of these will need to proceed as normal so the City Council can access Government funding.**

**Unfortunately the City Council does not have the legal powers London councils have to enforce things like School Streets, and we hope our local MPs will be able to change this to give the City Council powers in this area.**

**So My Lord Mayor, I'd like to welcome the petition, welcome the idea that this campaign will move to be a cross party campaign, and welcome the changes in the city that we will all work to achieve."**

Council adjourned at 1604.

Council resumed at 1610.

58. **Urgent Business - To receive and consider any urgent and important business from Members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order No 26**

There was no urgent business.

**59. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 14 July 2020****Minute 34 - Modern Slavery Transparency Framework**

This was approved unopposed.

**Minute 44 - UK Municipal Bonds Agency Framework Agreement**

This was approved unopposed.

**60. Recommendations from the Governance & Audit and Standards Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2020****Minute 15 - Proposed Revision to Standing Order 32 - Referral of Motions to other bodies of the Council**

This item was deferred from the last ordinary meeting and was approved unopposed.

**61. Political Proportionality Review on Committees and Panels**

The Lord Mayor advised that the report from the Chief Executive had been previously circulated. In response to the recommendations in the report it was

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

"To adopt the overall political balance and allocation of seats as set out in the Chief Executive's report and the proportionality chart, subject to agreeing the following changes

That the Conservative Group relinquish two seats to be taken by Councillor Symes as an Independent Member as follows -

One seat on the Licensing Committee (the seat currently held by Councillor Symes) and the other seat on the Scrutiny Management Panel, currently held by Councillor Swann."

This was agreed by general assent.

**RESOLVED**

**To adopt the overall political balance and allocation of seats as set out in the Chief Executive's report and the proportionality chart, subject to agreeing the following changes**

**That the Conservative Group relinquish two seats to be taken by Councillor Symes as an Independent Member as follows -**

**One seat on the Licensing Committee (the seat currently held by Councillor Symes) and the other seat on the Scrutiny Management Panel, currently held by Councillor Swann.**

**62. Urgent decision by the Chief Executive - Use of Standing Order 58 to temporarily extend licensing delegations**

The council noted this decision.

**63. Urgent Decision by the Chief Executive - Use of Standing Order 58 to Adopt Model Standing Orders**

The council noted this decision.

**64. Notices of Motion**

The Lord Mayor advised that although there are 12 Notices of Motion on the agenda, should motion g) be considered, motion i) cannot be put to this meeting as it would be caught by the 6 month rule. However, motion d) can be put as the related item dealt with earlier on the agenda was a petition from the public and not a motion from Councillors.

The Lord Mayor asked members to please note that having regard to the earlier decision agreeing the recommendation in minute 15 of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee, technically any formal change to standing order 32 cannot be implemented until the next Council meeting. However, following a discussion with the Group Leaders who support all the motions being considered at today's meeting, (excluding motion i) for the reasons above), the Lord Mayor proposed that the relevant part of Standing Order 32 d) be suspended for this meeting, which will dispense with the need for the proposer of each motion to speak for 3 minutes seeking the Council's support for their motion to be debated.

This was agreed.

**64.a Central Police Station**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason  
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

That Notice of Motion a) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Following debate, Notice of motion a) as set out on the agenda was adopted by general assent.

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

**"Central Police Station in Winston Churchill Avenue is earmarked for closure & disposal. The Council calls on Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner to reopen Central Police station with its public counter; if this proves not to be possible, then to open a police public counter in the vicinity of this current location."**

## 64.b Carbon reduction

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Ashmore

"In paragraph 1 line 2, replace "2045" replace with "the Government target of 2050 and the City Council target by 2030".

In paragraph 3 add "or Triple Glazing if possible" after the word "throughout".

As a further amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor George Fielding  
Seconded by Councillor Cal Corkery

to

"Amend first paragraph to read as follows:

Insert after "The City Council recognises that," the words "**as per the Climate Emergency motion passed by this Council in March 2019,**" and replace the words "Carbon neutral status by 2045" with "**Net zero carbon status by 2030**".

The first paragraph to therefore read:

"The City Council recognises that, as per the Climate Emergency motion passed by this Council in March 2019, to achieve Net zero carbon status by 2030 will be a major endeavour, but one that is needed if we are to confront the climate emergency."

As a further amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Jones

"Paragraph 2: replace 'commits to' with 'asks that the Cabinet considers'

Replace 'Portsmouth will' with 'Portsmouth would'

After paragraph 4 insert

The City Council recognises that developer contributions can only be set at a level that ensures the viability of delivering the sites identified in the Local Plan. These contributions include the Community Infrastructure Levy, Affordable Housing Contributions, other Section 106 payments and the Solent Special Protection Areas Levy.

Council recognises that any locally imposed environmental standards could necessarily result in additional costs for developers and hence mean a reduction in the surplus available to fund contributions. This could mean either lower cash receipts or reductions in the amount of affordable housing provided.

Council considers this a complicated trade-off. It therefore calls on the Cabinet to consider developer obligations in their totality.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendments proposed by Councillors Sanders and Fielding

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Stubbs was LOST.

The substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendments from Councillors Sanders and Fielding was agreed by assent.

**RESOLVED that**

**The City Council recognises that, as per the Climate Emergency motion passed by this Council in March 2019, to achieve Net zero carbon status by the Government target of 2050 and the City Council target by 2030 will be a major endeavour, but one that is needed if we are to confront the climate emergency.**

**The City Council therefore commits to using the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan to push for the highest standards of environmental enhancements that the Government will allow. So that all new build properties in Portsmouth will have:**

**Solar Panels to reduce fossil fuel energy use  
The highest levels of insulation in roof spaces and walls  
Double glazing throughout or Triple Glazing if possible**

**The City Council asks the Cabinet to look at how to make sure that the maximum number of homes benefit from higher environmental standards, any property where there is a change to the roof would have to install solar panels and the highest levels of insulation in roof spaces.**

**The City Council will also lobby the Government to provide funding and the powers to retrofit solar panels and better insulation to all properties in Portsmouth.**

### **64.c Thank You During the Coronavirus Lockdown**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Norton  
Seconded by Councillor Robert New

"After point 5, add in the following three points:

6. To teachers, who've worked hard to ensure both key-workers children and others have had access to education and a place to be educated during lockdown.
7. To factory workers and in particular to those in this city who have worked tirelessly and at little notice in the time of the nations need, to create and engineer lifesaving medical equipment to help save lives, such as ventilators.
8. To postal workers who ensured that important deliveries and mail infrastructure was maintained during COVID-19 and who for many (who were shielding) were the only regular friendly face seen they saw."

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendment proposed by Councillor Terry Norton.

The substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment from Councillor Terry Norton was agreed by assent.

**RESOLVED that Council formally thanks the people of this city for the sacrifices so many of them have made during the coronavirus lockdown.**

**It also wishes to thank the many people across our city who have worked hard to keep us all safe and, in so many cases, alive. These include:**

- 1. NHS and care workers**
- 2. Refuse collectors and delivery drivers**
- 3. Cleaners and gardeners**
- 4. People in newsagents, pharmacies and other essential shops**
- 5. Those who have been looking after the homeless**
- 6. To teachers, who've worked hard to ensure both key-workers children and others have had access to education and a place to be educated during lockdown.**

7. **To factory workers and in particular to those in this city who have worked tirelessly and at little notice in the time of the nations need, to create and engineer lifesaving medical equipment to help save lives, such as ventilators.**
8. **To postal workers who ensured that important deliveries and mail infrastructure was maintained during COVID-19 and who for many (who were shielding) were the only regular friendly face seen they saw.**

**Council also wishes to thank the many mutual aid organisations - whether of neighbours, friends, relatives or brought together by social media - whose volunteering efforts have brought hope to so many.**

**In particular, Council wishes to congratulate the HIVE for its work co-ordinating hundreds of volunteers to bring a friendly call, vital food or essential medical supplies, as well as the many organisations that have helped it do that.**

**Council recognises this is a crisis with no clear ending. However, it does want this city to be greener, fairer and kinder once it is. To that end, it recommends the following:**

1. **That the Cabinet lobbies Government to ensure frontline workers get an appropriate reward for their work.**
2. **To request the Cabinet to ask the people of the city and council staff to nominate people for a special, independently judged Coronavirus Civic Award to recognise those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty at this time.**

**Such an award will be given with the other Civic Awards at the 2021 AGM.**

3. **To request the Cabinet to Work on plans, in line with the City Vision, to deliver a kinder, fairer and greener city that seeks to harness the efforts of all the volunteers who have come forward to help the vulnerable during this pandemic.**

#### **64.d Sustainable Travel in Portsmouth**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney  
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

**"Paragraph 6 that starts 'We welcome the initial'**

**Before 'However we' insert**

**'However council wishes to express its opposition to the ill-thought through proposals from Cabinet that would have reduced Eastern Road to a single carriageway south-bound and would potentially have pushed traffic queues on to the A27'**

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Simon Boshier  
Seconded by Councillor Neill Young

**"Paragraph 6 delete " We welcome the initial proposals put forward for funding from the Emergency Active Travel Scheme as a useful start including " and replace with**

**"This Council welcomes the announcement by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps of the Government's £250 million active travel fund which is the first stage of a £2billion commitment to transform cycling and walking and we welcome the initial proposals put forward as part of the first tranche. These include"**

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Luke Stubbs was LOST.

Following a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Simon Boshier was CARRIED.

The substantive notice of motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Boshier was adopted by assent

## **RESOLVED**

**The city urgently needs a more sustainable transport system to meet both its carbon reduction and air quality targets. Road transport is now the largest source of emissions locally and air quality is still harmful in many areas of the city.**

**In March 2019 The City Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency and committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2030.**

**During the Coronavirus Pandemic we have seen significant increases in walking and cycling in the city. The requirement for social distancing to continue, especially on public transport, will require giving greater priority for cycling and walking on our streets.**

**Recently Lord Deben, Chair of the Committee on Climate Change Said "We have to do this as rapidly as possible. What we do not want is lots of good-hearted statements about beginning policies- what we need to do is seize the opportunity".**

**This Council welcomes the announcement by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps of the Government's £250 million active travel fund which is the first stage of a £2billion commitment to transform cycling and walking and we welcome the initial proposals put forward as part of the first tranche. These include the seafront road closures, Charlotte Street, Isambard Brunel Road and Guildhall Walk, the Eastern Parade temporary Toucan Crossings, pop-up segregated cycle lanes in Ordnance Row and Elm Grove, Changing Landguard Road/Reginald Road/Maxwell Road/Tredegar Road - into one way streets with contraflow cycling, and filtered permeability (Stopping cars using it as a through route) in Castle Road and Canal Walk. However we will need to be more ambitious to build back a better future with a truly sustainable transport system for our city.**

**The Pompey Street Space Campaign has got significant support across the city from groups and individuals and has recently been asking for the council to do more. We support the Pompey Street Space Campaign and their three requests and call on the Cabinet to consider agreeing them. They are;**

- **To widen narrow pavements in busy streets so that people can keep the appropriate distance whilst walking and queuing,**
- **To create a joined up network of roads throughout the city that give priority to cyclists and pedestrians.**
- **To create commuter cycle routes that enable residents, from all areas of the city, to travel to work quickly and safely by bike**

**We also call on the Cabinet to consider agreeing;**

**That all bids for funding relating to city development should include measures that prioritise walking and cycling.**

**That proposals for the second tranche of funding for the Emergency Active Travel Scheme should support the three requests of the Pompey Street Space Campaign.**

Council adjourned at 1905.

Council resumed at 1915.

#### **64.e Youth Services**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Coles  
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

**"At the end of paragraph one, please add:**

**However, in 2019 and 2020 the City Council has found an extra £500,000 to put into detached youth work in the city provided by Pompey in the Community, the Active Communities Network and Motiv8. This is in stark contrast to Hampshire where the County Council no longer has a youth service."**

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

Following a roll call vote, the substantive notice of motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Sanders was adopted.

### **RESOLVED**

**Since 2010, the government has slashed £1 billion from Youth Services nationally. In Portsmouth, there has been a significant reduction in youth provision. Youth Clubs exist in Portsea, Buckland, Somerstown and Paulsgrove/Wymering; there used to be additional provision but this has been cut in recent years having an impact on community wellbeing and cohesion. However, in 2019 and 2020 the City Council has found an extra £500,000 to put into detached youth work in the city provided by Pompey in the Community, the Active Communities Network and Motiv8. This is in stark contrast to Hampshire where the County Council no longer has a youth service.**

**You are only young once. Our Young People deserve much better than this. What is needed is money and resources to put support back into our communities, enabling Portsmouth City Council to work with young people to build a system whereby they are safe and secure in the modern world, treated fairly, supported in the present, and ambitious for their future:**

- **Skilled and equipped to learn and earn**
- **Positive health and wellbeing**
- **Active members of their communities**
- **Happy and confident in their future**

**To achieve this vision, we as a Council need to be able to provide long-term, stable funding for youth services to ensure all young people have access to high quality youth work provision that matches their needs and the main purpose of youth services provided should be to provide non-formal education through personal and social development and citizenship.**

**Therefore:**

- 1) **This Council notes that, in order to provide for those in the city aged between 10 and 19, Youth Services funding needs to be reviewed and increased.**
- 2) **This Council believes that, like Social Care and Education, Youth Services should be a statutory service of local government and that the Government should be encouraged to make it so.**
- 3) **This Council believes that Youth Services budgets should be protected, and that the Government should make Youth Services a statutory function of local government in order to protect funding for services for young people.**
- 4) **This Council requests the Cabinet to protect and increase Youth Services funding within the annual budget as much as possible.**
- 5) **This Council asks all Group Leaders to write to the Government to request Youth Services is re-categorised as a statutory service and funding is increased and ring-fenced in future budgets.**

#### **64.f Fair pay for staff in council services**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery  
Seconded by Councillor Tom Coles

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

"to delete paragraph 3"

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Vernon-Jackson was LOST.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, notice of motion f) as set out on the agenda was adopted.

#### **RESOLVED**

**Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, staff working in council services have played a vital role in supporting our communities through these incredibly challenging times. The efforts of those working in essential services have been remarkable and must be recognised as such through meaningful action.**

**A proposal for council staff to receive a one-off bonus of £500 each had been put to the cross party Local Government Association (LGA)**

resources board who agreed to lobby government for the necessary funding to make it happen. However this decision was then effectively overturned by the LGA Executive Advisory Board.

It is believed that council staff fully deserve a financial bonus for their efforts in recent months and call on the LGA to lobby government to fund this. Portsmouth City Council directly employed staff currently receive at least the Living Wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation, however many staff in outsourced or commissioned council services do not. In order to become an accredited Living Wage employer the local authority must pay all directly employed staff the Living Wage and have a plan to ensure that staff in outsourced services also receive at least this rate.

The current round of local government pay negotiations remains unresolved and the most recent employers' offer of 2.75% doesn't go anywhere near far enough recognising the contributions of council staff to dealing with pandemic. Nor does the offer come close enough to making up the average 22% real terms reduction in the earnings of the lowest paid since 2010. Trade union members are right to reject this paltry offer which fails to fairly reward hard working council staff. Employers should reconsider their position and lobby for an increased pay deal funded by central government.

The local authority has a responsibility to ensure staff in council services are fairly treated and properly rewarded for their efforts.

Given the exceptional contributions made by public service workers over the past few months this is a responsibility which we must take even more seriously.

Full Council therefore resolves:

1. To publicly place on record our appreciation of the role that staff in council services, and their trade unions, have played in dealing with the impact of the pandemic.
2. To request the Chief Executive write a public letter on behalf of the local authority to the LGA Executive Advisory Board expressing dismay at their decision not to lobby for cash to provide special payments to staff as a result of COVID-19 and ask they reconsider this position.
3. To ask the Cabinet to sign the council up to become a Living Wage employer as accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.

#### **64.g Black Lives Matter**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Wood

Seconded by Councillor Will Purvis

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Judith Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Stephen Morgan

**"To add at the end of the motion:**

**This should include:**

- 1) The cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic**
- 2) The Cabinet be asked to Review to improve engagement with BAME community groups by the council to see what lessons can be learnt to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership working to root out all forms of racism and injustice**
- 3) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of their responsibilities and obligations in law**

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Atkins  
Seconded by Councillor Stubbs

**"After the end of the first sentence, ending "George Floyd" delete the remainder of the text and replace with:**

**"The harrowing footage of the murder of George Floyd has quite rightly shaken the world. Tragically this is not a one-off event. It is symptomatic of a deep-set racism in society. While the Black Lives Matter movement is on the frontier of the battle for civil rights and the peaceful resilience of the black community is an inspiration, there are things that we can do here in Portsmouth to stamp out all forms of racism and injustice.**

**The Black Lives Matter movement has reminded us that there remains considerable violence, prejudice and inequality against BAME communities happening across the UK and here in Portsmouth, whilst Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on this inequality and there is significant actions required locally and nationally. Public Health England (PHE) has confirmed in a report published on 16 June 2020, that people from a BAME background are twice as likely to die from Covid-19 than those who are White British background because of structural and racial**

**inequalities. Those living in a deprived community have higher levels of diagnosis and death rates.**

**Thousands of people and organisations have made it clear that urgent, collaborative and decisive action is needed. Hundreds have demonstrated in Portsmouth. The Government cannot make the same mistakes if there is a second wave of coronavirus, nor can we in Portsmouth.**

**Council notes:**

- **The decision to light Spinnaker Tower purple in commemoration of the tragic and wholly unnecessary death of George Floyd.**
- **The commitment to engage BAME council staff to assist with the local authority's response to the Black Lives Matter movement.**

**Council resolves:**

- 1) **To stand in complete solidarity with BAME communities in America, in Britain, and around the world, by affirming that black lives matter and recognising the work of the Black Lives Matter movement here in Portsmouth.**
- 2) **To lobby for immediate government action to address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people.**
- 3) **To specifically call on the government to:**
  - **make urgent changes to Government policy and guidance to protect BAME communities as the recent PHE report requested; and;**
  - **implement the action plan as requested by the Chair of the BMA (British Medical Association) to reduce the risk to BAME employees and to address the underlying issues.**
- 4) **The Cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- 5) **The Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review on improving communication with BAME community groups by the council to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership while working to root out all forms of racism and injustice.**
- 6) **That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of the opportunities available to them to actively engage with BAME communities in Portsmouth as well as their responsibilities and obligations in law."**

The mover of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendment standing in the name of Cllr Judith Smyth.

Following debate, upon a roll call vote being taken, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Atkins was **LOST**.

Upon being put to the vote, the substantive notice of motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Smyth was adopted by assent.

## **RESOLVED**

**Council condemns the senseless torture and murder of George Floyd.**

**Council notes that the death of George Floyd in the USA has attracted significant international attention and peaceful protest, as yet another tragic example of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities being treated as if their lives matter less.**

**From our Government's deportation of the Windrush generation who came to rebuild this country after WWII, to the persecution of Yazidi Christians in the Middle East and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, to the killing in Charlottesville, the dream that all lives matter rings hollow for many.**

**Council believes that black lives matter, and resolves to send a message of solidarity and support to those who have attended Portsmouth's home grown Black Lives Matter peaceful protests, in recognition of the importance of peaceful protest against racial injustice, racist violence, and abuse of power, and in recognition that in Portsmouth, the right to life, liberty, and justice of every citizen is precious, and that we all have a role in upholding and defending these rights.**

**In particular Council condemns the actions of President Trump in deploying violence against peaceful protests against police brutality in numerous US cities.**

**Council resolves to support calls for the Department for International Trade to suspend exporting of CS and tear gas, rubber bullets, and similar riot control equipment to the US pending investigation of whether any UK-supplied equipment has been misused by US authorities against peaceful protestors.**

**Council resolves to seek a revisit of the findings of the Government's Race Disparity Audit (2017), the Lammy Review (2017), and the McGregor-Smith Review (2017), among others, and their recommendations for developing effective strategies to reduce disparities between ethnic groups in our city.**

**Council resolves to welcome the EHRC's announcement of an inquiry into long-standing structural race inequalities in the UK in relation to Covid-19 deaths, and commits to working to address structural**

**inequalities in the city through engagement with communities in Portsmouth to assess the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.**

**Council asks Cabinet to appoint cross-party Equalities Champion to oversee the Council's work on equalities, diversity and inclusion.**

**Council requests that the Cabinet brings forward a report on the actions it will take to address structural inequalities in the city and how these actions will be delivered and monitored. The report should address the resourcing of BAME groups to ensure they have stronger voices and influence both within our communities and among our workforce, and a commitment to developing an antiracism strategy for the city in conjunction with communities and partners such as the police and NHS.**

**This should include:**

- 1) The cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic**
- 2) The Cabinet be asked to Review to improve engagement with BAME community groups by the council to see what lessons can be learnt to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership working to root out all forms of racism and injustice**
- 3) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of their responsibilities and obligations in law.**

**64.h Reform of the Gender Recognition Act and Support for our Trans Community**

It was

Proposed by Councillor George Fielding  
Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Claire Udy  
Seconded by Councillor Jeanette Smith

"Add fourth point to this council therefore resolves

"The council stands with the education directorate in light of recent events which threaten the removal of their trans inclusion guidance/toolkit. The

removal of this document threatens the safety of trans teenagers, who we must protect".

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

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the substantive notice of motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Udy, was adopted by assent.

## **RESOLVED**

### **This council notes**

**The UK Government consultation on reforming the 2004 Gender Recognition Act (GRA) took place nearly two years ago, and the results of the consultation have not yet been released.**

**In April 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss MP said in evidence to the Women and Equalities Select Committee that she will be guided by the following important principles:**

- **the protection of single-sex spaces.**
- **that transgender adults are free to live their lives as they wish without fear of persecution, whilst maintaining the proper checks and balances in the system.**
- **ensuring that the under 18s are protected from decisions that they could make, that are irreversible in the future.**

**However since then, there have been concerns that the Government are rowing back on their commitments.**

**Portsmouth City Council has promoted LGBT+ rights and welcomed the creation of councillor champions in fighting for equality for all since.**

**At present, trans people face significant disadvantage in society - one in four trans people report being discriminated against in work, over a third avoid expressing their gender through physical appearance in fear of being assaulted or harassed, and almost 50% of trans people have attempted suicide at some point in their lives.**

**It is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open Portsmouth to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated under the guise of 'legitimate concerns' over someone's basic humanity**

### **This council therefore resolves**

- **That all Group Leaders be requested to write to the Minister for Women and Equalities in support of reforms to the GRA as per the 70% of respondents to the consultation regarding the principle of legal gender self-identification for trans people living in the UK**

- **That the Administration, as political leaders of this council, step up and be visible in challenging transphobia in our community**
- **The council continues to work actively with the LGBT+ champions in fighting against any other form of LGBTQ+ hatred in this city, and continue to help communities through relevant LGBTQ+ services within the council**
- **The council stands with the education directorate in light of recent events which threaten the removal of their trans inclusion guidance/toolkit. The removal of this document threatens the safety of trans teenagers, who we must protect**

The Council noted following earlier advice from the City Solicitor that as the earlier motion (g) proposed by Councillor Tom Wood was considered by the council, then motion (i) proposed by Councillor Judith Smyth cannot be put to the meeting as it was caught by the six month rule.

#### **64.i Black Lives Matter**

This was not put for the reasons stated above.

Council adjourned at 21.36.

Council resumed at 21.50.

#### **64.j Consultation on changes to the road network**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That Notice of motion j) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, Notice of motion j) as set out on the agenda was adopted by assent.

### **RESOLVED**

**Council notes that:**

- **The closure of Eastern Parade and parts of the Esplanade have been enacted via the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order process**
- **The since abandoned reduction of Eastern Road to a single southbound lane was to have been progressed through the same process**
- **Both the above schemes were drawn up with the potential of them being made permanent**
- **No consultation was required or carried out**

**Council recognises the pressures put on cycling and pedestrian infrastructure by the COVID 19 crisis and the difficult position this put**

**the administration in. Nevertheless it is concerned that extensive and potentially long lasting changes are being made to the road network without any opportunity for public input or for the consideration of detailed comments from businesses, taxi groups and other stakeholders.**

**It therefore puts on record its concerns and calls for the Cabinet to engage with the public on any schemes with a potential duration of more than six months.**

#### **64.k Consultation on our heritage**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

"In paragraph 4 delete all the words after "decision"."

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

Following debate, upon the substantive notice of motion including the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Vernon-Jackson being put to the vote this was adopted by assent.

#### **RESOLVED**

**Council notes the mounting concern at the actions and attitudes of historical figures, some of whom are commemorated with statues or with streets or public buildings bearing their names.**

**However council also believes that the history of Portsmouth belongs to all the people of the city and not just to councillors.**

**If the administration comes to the conclusion that it wants to rename a building or road under its control or wishes to remove a statue, it has the legal power to do so. However council considers this would not be the right thing to do without establishing whether there is public support first.**

**Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to commit to carrying out the most extensive consultation before any such decision.**

## **64.I Re-opening of Schools**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Norton  
Seconded by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

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

Following debate, Notice of motion I) as set out on the agenda was adopted following a roll call vote.

### **RESOLVED**

**Covid-19 has been challenging for many across the UK, in particular children who have suffered educationally and in some cases personally too. School offers not just an education, but also a place for social development and in some cases a safe haven away from abuse and neglect. Schools play a vital role in keeping some of the most vulnerable children in our city safe, whilst also enhancing their aspirations and outcomes in life.**

**Portsmouth City Council welcomes the commitment for children to return to educational settings in September.**

**Portsmouth City Council notes that:**

- 1) The recovery of education is critical for this generation of schoolchildren.**
- 2) Portsmouth has a rising number of children returning to school with no reported outbreaks**
- 3) The government's decision has been taken based on statistical evidence.**
- 4) The pressures of sustained amounts of time away from an educational setting is having a detrimental effect on children's mental health.**
- 5) School is a safe place where children from all backgrounds can learn, develop and play.**

**Portsmouth City Council believes that the government's decision to reopen schools will relieve parents of the additional burden and assist with childcare enabling parents to return to work where possible, prevent wider educational inequality for our most disadvantaged children and assist in reopening of the economy.**

**Portsmouth City Council resolves:**

- 1) **To express its support for teachers and school staff who have attended work to support the children of Keyworkers.**
- 2) **To ask the Cabinet to ensure that parents, school staff and governors from across the city are kept well informed of each schools reopening plan.**
- 3) **To ask the Cabinet to offer support to Portsmouth schools who have expressed concerns over the functionality of reopening.**

**Portsmouth City Council notes that any actions taken by this council must be subject to the government's scientific advice both now and in the future.**

#### **65. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

There were seven questions before council.

##### **Question 1 was from Councillor Tom Coles**

"Since May 2018 how many committee meetings of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has the Leader of the Council, as the city council's representative, attended? And how many for the full duration of the meeting?"

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

##### **Question 2 was from Councillor Terry Norton**

"Is the leader of the council committed to improving democratic engagement at PCC?"

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

The remaining five questions were all from Councillor Stubbs. He said that owing to the lateness of the meeting, he would be happy to receive written replies to his questions.

The members to whom the questions had been addressed agreed to supply written responses.

The Lord Mayor thanked members and officers for their virtual attendance at the meeting and wished everyone goodnight.

The meeting concluded at 11.31 pm.

.....  
Lord Mayor