

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held remotely on Tuesday, 8 December 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Council Members Present (virtually)

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

Councillors

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

General Procedural Announcements

Link to the agenda

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MId=4267&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. 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.

94. Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Jeanette Smith declared a pecuniary interest in item 10(b) as she is a paid official of a trades union and would leave for that item. Councillor

Smith also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as she is a trade union member.

Councillor Cal Corkery declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a trade union member.

Councillor Tom Coles declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a member of Unite the Union.

Councillor Judith Smyth declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as she is a union member.

Councillor Stephen Morgan declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a member of GMB Union.

Councillor George Fielding declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a union member.

Councillor John Ferrett declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10(b) as he works for a trade union and would not participate in that item. He also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a member of a trade union.

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(b) in that he is employed by the NHS.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(b). She also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as she is a member of a trade union.

Councillor Matthew Winnington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a member of Unison.

Councillor Graham Heaney declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(h) as he is a member of the university union.

95. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary Council meetings held on 10 November 2020

It was

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

That the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary council meetings held on 10 November 2020 be confirmed as correct records.

These were agreed by assent.

96. To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the council, including apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Lee Hunt, Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Councillor Matthew Atkins and Councillor Jo Hooper. Councillor Stephen Morgan said that he may need to absent himself from the meeting on parliamentary business.

The Lord Mayor advised that following consultation with and support from the group leaders, it was a great honour and privilege to recently present a civic award to Michael Woolley, the co-ordinator and chairman of Friends without Borders, Portsmouth for all the outstanding tireless work he has done for the organisation over very many years. The Lord Mayor said he had received a letter from Michael saying how touched and happy he was at being presented with the award.

The Lord Mayor said he regretted to announce the sad passing of two former councillors; former Councillor Bill Fry who served in Drayton & Farlington between 1974 and 1984 and former Councillor Terry Gregory who was a councillor between 1974 and 1989.

The Lord Mayor also said he was sorry to advise of the sad passing of Mr Brian Kidd who was the council's former head of parks and gardens and who was known as Mr Gardening. Brian was conferred with the Freedom of the City in 2003.

The Lord Mayor expressed condolences to their respective families at this difficult time.

97. Written Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

The Lord Mayor advised that ten written deputations had been received for this meeting and had been previously circulated. These were from

- Jon Woods, Portsmouth City UNISON branch chair in respect of agenda **item 10b - Public Sector Pay Freeze**
- Chris Gray, Unite the Union Regional Officer South East Region, Selma Heimedinger on behalf of XR Southsea and Clare Seek in respect of agenda **item 10c - Support Southampton Airport Runway Expansion,**
- Selma Heimedinger on behalf of XR Southsea and Jon Woods, Chair of Portsmouth Trades Council in respect of agenda **item 10d - Respecting our Fallen Heroes**
- Mr Alan Burgess in respect of agenda **item 10f - Stop the Cut to Universal Credit**
- Richard White, Regional Political Officer, South East Region, Unite the Union and Jon Woods, Portsmouth City UNISON branch chair in respect of agenda **item 10h) - Saving Union Learning Fund.**

The Local Democracy Manager read out the deputations.

The Lord Mayor thanked those who had submitted written deputations.

98. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no questions from the public.

99. Appointments

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no appointments.

100. 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.

101. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 1 December 2020

Minute 72 - Treasury Management Mid-Year review

This was approved unopposed.

Minute 80 - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (Q2) to end September 2020

This was opposed to allow for debate.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

That the recommendations contained in minute 80 be approved.

Following debate, the recommendations in minute 80 were approved by assent.

RESOLVED that

- (i) **The forecast financial shortfall of between £6.1m & £12.6m across the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account as consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic be noted**
- (ii) **The following Revised COVID-19 Deficit Recovery Strategy be approved in the sum of £11.9m (being sufficient to cover the Council's pessimistic forecast COVID-19 related overspend of £11.8m):**
 - **Earmarking £5m of the Council's Corporate Contingency - leaving a residual £5m for all other known and unknown financial risks that may arise during the year**
 - **Earmarking £5m of the MTRS Reserve which currently holds an uncommitted balance of £8m - leaving just £3m**

only to fund future Spend to Save schemes and any costs of redundancies that may be required

- Removal of Capital Schemes that have been funded by Revenue with a total value of £1.927m
- Should any funding remain after meeting the financial impact of COVID- 19, that it be returned to the MTRS Reserve / Contingency to be available for any short-term legacy impacts of COVID-19 that continues into 2021/22

- (iii) In accordance with the Revised COVID-19 Deficit Recovery Strategy it is recommended that the following schemes up to the value shown are removed from the approved Capital Programme

	Scheme to Be Removed From Capital Programme	Amount Released From Corporate Resources £
Children, Families & Education		
Tangier Road Children's Home*	2,100	
Beechside Children's Home*	6,600	
Enable and Improve Mobile Working	191,000	
Adaptations to Carers Homes	600,000	
King Richard School Rebuild 900-1000 places*	150,000	
Universal Infant Free School Meal Provision*	35,100	
Special Education Needs - Building Alterations*	350,000	
Beacon View Primary School - Kitchen Block*	3,300	
Culture, Leisure & Economic Development		
Allotment Security Grants	3,800	
Canoe Lake De-silting	25,000	
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	19,400	
Round Tower Improvement Works	75,000	
Health, Wellbeing & Social Care		
Shearwater House - Backup Power Supply*	9,200	
Kestrel Centre Relocation to Civic Offices*	37,700	
Leader		
Port Master System*	13,500	
Communities & Central Services		
Project Management	44,900	
Ground Floor Reception Improvements	14,900	
Traffic & Transportation		
Local Transport Plan & Road Safety 3	192,000	
Eastern Road Waterbridge*	21,800	
Anglesea Road Footbridge*	26,800	
Traffic Signal Upgrade Packages*	2,500	
Western Corridor - South	102,000	

	Total Value of Schemes to Be Removed	1,926,600
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*Scheme is complete/substantially complete and unused resources can be released

- (iv) The forecast General Fund outturn position, inclusive of funding Losses, for 2020/21 be noted:
 - (a) The Base Case forecast of COVID-19 related overspending of £5,362,000 after expected government funding
 - (b) That the Base Case forecast overspending of £5,362,000 remains uncertain and in a pessimistic scenario could see that overspending rise to £11,800,000
 - (c) The COVID-19 forecasts do not currently make any provision for additional costs or losses of income / funding that may arise from the new national restrictions.
 - (d) Non COVID-19 related underspending of £4,094,100
 - (e) Taking account of the likely range of COVID-19 forecast overspends, the combined overspending for the Council is forecast to be between £1,268,100 and £7,706,100.
- (v) Members note that in accordance with approved policy as described in Section 8, any actual non COVID-19 overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2021/22 Cash Limit.
- (vi) Members note that at the time this report was prepared the Country had just entered a period of new national restrictions. Due to the wide ranging and rapidly changing implications arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the overall financial impact of COVID-19 over the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year and into the medium term remains very uncertain and maintaining headroom within the Revised COVID-19 Deficit Recovery Strategy is vital in order to ensure that the financial resilience of the Council is not compromised and the council continues to remain financially resilient into the medium term.
- (vii) Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, consider options that seek to minimise any forecast non COVID-19 overspend presently being reported and prepare strategies outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2021/22 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2021/22.

102. Notices of Motion

The Lord Mayor advised that there were nine notices of motion on the agenda for this meeting.

102.a Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Dave Ashmore

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Robert New
Seconded by Councillor Terry Norton

"After 'Food Standards' in the final paragraph, delete the rest of the paragraph and replace with:

And places on record our thanks to the government for the recent decision to end the 'live exports' of animals from the UK. In fact England and Wales are the first European countries to ban the export of live animals. The council notes this is a significant improvement which the British government has been able to deliver (in England and Wales), now the UK is no longer an EU member state and regrets the EU do not put the same importance on animal welfare standards. Examples are the EU's continuation of allowing 'foie gras' to be produced, a practice of intentionally fattening and enlarging a bird's liver by unethical force-feeding through a corn tube, often to ducks and geese, so that when humans consume it, they are effectively eating the diseased liver of a bird.

Furthermore, the council notes the UK government is a world leader on Animal Welfare standards. Portsmouth City Council also notes Penny Mordaunt MP recently voted against a Labour Party and Lib Dem House of Lords amendment to the October (2020) Agriculture Bill on this issue, put forward in the House of Lords and rejected by MPs, as it was intended to frustrate Brexit negotiations, dressed up as a legal guarantee (when the Government had already committed to upholding our high animal welfare standards in pursuit of international trade deals). The council places on record its thanks to the British Government for improving the welfare of animals."

Following debate the mover of the original motion advised that he did not wish to subsume into it the amendment.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Robert New was LOST.

Upon the original notice being put to a roll call vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

Over the last 40 years Britain has spearheaded efforts to improve animal welfare in the farming industry across Europe. Leadership from Britain has seen the abolition of cruel animal practices such as veal pens and battery cages for chickens. This has benefited animals across Europe.

Now that Britain has left the European Union we again have a chance to push better animal welfare in countries where we may import food from. We can do that by insisting that if countries want to export animal products to Britain that their standards of animal welfare are as high as those in this country. British consumers need to be protected from hormone filled beef and chlorine washed chicken.

High animal welfare standards in countries wishing to sell food to Britain will also mean that British farmers are not commercially disadvantaged by cheap, low animal welfare, imports of food from countries that do not have our animal welfare standards. Global Britain has a chance to influence the world for the better.

To support animal welfare the City Council therefore publicly supports the National Farmers Union petition on Food Standards. It calls on our MPs to support this line, regrets the decision of the MP for Portsmouth North (Penny Mordaunt) not to support proposals to support British farmers and animal welfare, and thanks the MP for Portsmouth South (Stephen Morgan) for joining MPs from the Labour, Lib Dems, Scottish and Welsh nationalists and the Green Party for doing so.

102.b Public Sector Workers Pay Freeze

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

"Delete in Para 3 the words " who are now facing a pay freeze imposed by the Government." And replace with " whose pay levels are determined by the National Joint Committee in consultation with the local government sector."

After Paragraph 3 add

Council notes that the government has used pay freezes previously at times of financial distress. This includes when LibDem Danny Alexander was Chief Secretary to the Treasury. It notes that at the time of the 2010 Spending Review he said 'When we came into office, we inherited an economy that was on the brink with the largest budget deficit in Europe'. That is true once again.

It further notes that the Council's financial position for the coming year is under pressure and that if pay levels are frozen that position will be easier to resolve than would otherwise be the case.

delete paragraph 5 and replace with

Council notes that the decision on whether to freeze pay for local government employees will be made by the National Joint Committee and that the council always has the option to withdraw from the scheme and set its own pay levels.

Council believes that if the Cabinet considers public sector pay freezes to be unfair that it should lobby the NJC and consider withdrawing from the scheme. It notes that the Council always has the option of reducing spending on frontline services or holding a referendum on a council tax increase to provide the funding."

Following debate, the proposer of the original motion advised that he did not wish to subsume the amendment into it.

Upon the amendment in the name of Councillor Stubbs being put to a roll call vote, this was LOST.

Upon the original motion being put to a roll call vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

Over the last nine months communities across the UK have come to rely on the exceptional work council workers have put in to protect and support local residents during the pandemic.

Just as in the NHS care workers, and others, have put their own health on the line to support and protect people suffering from Coronavirus, so have council workers. We have come to understand that key workers are a much wider group of people than we used to think they were.

In Portsmouth the City Council has created an isolation unit to take people coming out of hospital and to care for them until they are free from the virus, before they return to their own care homes. This is to break the cycle of infection between hospitals and care homes of elderly and vulnerable residents. This unit is staffed completely by council employees, who are now facing a pay freeze imposed by the Government.

This council rejects the idea of a pay freeze on public sector workers whose efforts to give care and support during the pandemic have been superhuman.

Any plan that does not give teachers, teaching assistants, care workers and others who have been providing vital help and support during this virus, would be very unfair. It would be even more unfair when set against the reality of friends and contacts of Ministers being awarded multi million pound Government contracts with no competition. It cannot be right that friends of Ministers get rich on Government contracts but those providing care and support to the most vulnerable in society are facing a pay freeze.

102.c Support Southampton Airport Runway Expansion

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Simon Bosher

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

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, notice of motion (c) was LOST

RESOLVED that notice of motion (c) as set out on the agenda be not adopted.

Council adjourned at 1815.

Council resumed at 1845.

102.d Respecting Our Fallen Heroes

It was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Norton
Seconded by Councillor Robert New

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

As an amendment

It was

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

"Amendment

Delete paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 and add

"The City Council puts on record its thanks to all those who helped organise ways for the people of Portsmouth to observe Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day this year in a safe way to make sure that veterans were not put at risk of catching the virus."

Following debate, the mover of the original motion advised that he did not wish to subsume into it the amendment.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson was CARRIED.

Upon, the substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment being put to the vote, this was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED

Portsmouth is a proud military city. The people of Portsmouth and the City Council have always embraced our military history and heritage, honouring and celebrating the part Portsmouth has played in defending the realm and people across the world.

The City Council puts on record its thanks to all those who helped organise ways for the people of Portsmouth to observe Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day this year in a safe way to make sure that veterans were not put at risk of catching the virus.

102.e The Future of Portsmouth Dockyard

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Atkins
Seconded by Councillor Robert New

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

As an amendment

It was

Proposed by Councillor Stephen Morgan MP
Seconded by Councillor Tom Coles

"Amendment

After paragraph 'Our future as a city is dependent on..' add:

"This council regrets, however, that the cash injection is all capital spend, with day-to-day revenue funding for defence expected to flatline at around £31.5bn per year, equating to a 2.4 per cent real terms cut through to 2024/25. This will inevitably mean more cuts to Her Majesty's armed forces and British armed forces jobs".

After the numbered list add:

"Whilst recognising the Prime Minister's funding commitment last month is without any strategy, and there is no plan for how the money will be used to deal with the threats Britain faces, this Council urges Government to publish the Integrated Review without delay".

Following debate, the mover of the motion advised that he did not wish to subsume into it the amendment.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Stephen Morgan was CARRIED

Upon the substantive motion including the amendment being put to a roll call vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

The Royal Navy has played a major part in our city and our country's history. It is a matter of great pride to Portsmouth's citizens that we are not only 'The Home of the Royal Navy' but also home to the two aircraft carriers: HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, the largest warships ever built by the British Government.

Portsmouth's economy is heavily dependent on the Royal Navy and the many skilled jobs in the private sector paid for by the government through defence contracts. Companies like BAE Systems and Babcock employ thousands of people in the city and the surrounding area.

This council has a history of supporting the Royal Navy and fighting for Portsmouth's Dockyard. Cllr Vernon-Jackson, as Leader of the city council, was key in putting the case for Portsmouth Naval Base in the 2013 Strategic Defence Review. Cllr Donna Jones has fought for the Type 31 contract to be signed and the ships to be base-ported in Portsmouth following the decommissioning of the Type 23s, as well as putting the case for Portsmouth in the mini-strategic defence review of 2015.

Our future as a city is dependent on the jobs and the skills the dockyard brings. The government has recently announced the largest increase in defence spending in 30 years. An additional £16.5Bn will be spent on defence of the UK over the next 4 years on top of a regular annual increase of 0.5% above inflation. The commitment to increase the Royal Navy surface fleet was a key part of the announcement including the confirmation of government's ambition to deliver a new Type 32 class of frigate bringing the total number of frigates to 25 by the year 2035. As well as increasing the budget the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, has made a commitment that these new ships will be built in Britain. This will continue to secure the future of our nation, as well as the future of the Naval Base in Portsmouth.

This council regrets, however, that the cash injection is all capital spend, with day-to-day revenue funding for defence expected to flatline at around £31.5bn per year, equating to a 2.4 per cent real terms cut through to 2024/25.

This will inevitably mean more cuts to Her Majesty's armed forces and British armed forces jobs.

Therefore this council welcomes:

- 1. The increase in the defence budget announced by the government**
- 2. The confirmation of the new Type 31 frigate class being delivered**
- 3. The future plans for the new Type 32 frigates.**
- 4. And places on record its thanks to the government for the commitment to defence spending over the next 4 years.**

Whilst recognising the Prime Minister's funding commitment last month is without any strategy, and there is no plan for how the money will be used to deal with the threats Britain faces, this Council urges Government to publish the Integrated Review without delay.

102.f Stop the Cut to Universal Credit

It was

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

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

Following debate upon being put to the vote, notice of motion (f) was CARRIED by assent

RESOLVED

Up and down our country millions of people have lost their jobs or substantial amounts of income due to Covid-19. These cuts will increase pressure on already tight household budgets.

The coronavirus crisis has shone a light on poverty in Portsmouth. Despite the efforts of many across our city and in the local voluntary and community sector, this winter, food banks are expecting to give out an emergency parcel every 9 seconds. The Trussell Trust have also said cutting Universal Credit could increase already skyrocketing food bank use by a further 10%.

In that context, it is unthinkable for the national government to take £20 a week, or £1,000 a year, from Portsmouth's poorest households as unemployment continues to rise.

Research from the Resolution Foundation has shown this cut would see the poorest households lose 7 per cent of their disposable income.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- urge the Government not to cut Universal Credit by £20 a week for families; and;
- ask Group Leaders to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to extend that approach to supporting Britain's families and maintaining the £20 rise to Universal Credit to help people in Portsmouth;
- asks Cabinet to continue to work alongside local voluntary and community sector organisations to identify the impact of Covid-19 on the most vulnerable in our city and take steps to mitigate this.

102.g Openness and Transparency at Portsmouth City Council

It was

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

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

As an amendment

It was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

"Amendment

1. Replace Par 2 and the 'Council notes' section with

Council notes the significant improvements in involving councillors from all parties since May 2018, reversing the Tory secrecy. For instance:

- Bringing back the cross-party working group on homelessness, now with outside agencies and an independent Chair.
- Creating the cross-party working group on sea defences
- All member briefings on key acquisitions such as Lakeside, a contrast to the secrecy and failure to follow due process that surrounded Victory Energy
- Making sure opposition councillors again sat on the body that oversees cutting crime in Portsmouth.
- Making sure notices of motion are debated at Full Council first time, rather than shunted off somewhere else only to be debated at Full Council months later

- Increasing seats on the Health and Wellbeing Board so all three political parties are represented
- Introducing regular cross-party portfolio briefings outside decision meetings and briefings for all members on how the Council is tackling Coronavirus.

Council also notes the encouraging responses to council consultations. As of 12 November this year, 21,058 residents replied to 35 consultations issued in 2020, outlined below. Council also notes the second wave of the coronavirus resident research, which includes the budget consultation, is launching today. In addition, almost 2,200 staff replied to internal consultations. The public consultations were:

- Food waste trial survey - 896 responses
- Private rental sector strategy (wave one) - 849 responses
- Neglect survey - 175 responses
- Bus information survey - 595 responses
- Energy and water at home strategy - 273 responses
- Electric vehicle ownership survey - 63 responses
- MD resident parking zone review - 381 responses
- Early Years Census for 2020 - 202 responses
- MH Westfield Road area parking survey - 654 responses
- MI Middlesex Road area parking survey - 372 responses
- SEND young people survey - 63 responses
- City vision (coronavirus response) - 39 responses
- SEND parent/carer survey (2020) - 360 responses
- Coronavirus resident survey (wave one) - 2,826 responses
- Pompey Monster walk to school - winter 2020 - 282 responses
- Clean Air Zone individual - 2,175 responses
- Clear Air Zone business - 140 responses
- Companion bus pass survey - 90 responses
- Imagine Portsmouth: city-wide consultation - 1,822 responses
- MG Festing Grove area parking survey - 476 responses
- CCE Practitioners survey - 237 responses
- Concessionary bus pass survey - 702 responses
- The learning place research - 45 responses
- Carers self-assessment - 32 responses
- Elm Grove/Kings Road (wave one) - 919 responses
- Parent and carer survey (2020) - 222 responses
- Stomp for Stamps - 1,210 responses
- Seafront Masterplan - 1,268 responses
- Collaborative Enhancements Plan - 288 responses
- Special School Nursing service provision consultation - 51 responses
- Private Rental Sector Strategy (wave two) - 682 responses
- Local Transport Plan 4 - 848 responses*
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - 626 responses
- Colas resident survey 2020 - 1,726 responses
- Sports and Leisure facilities - 1,450 responses*

- Elm Grove/Kings Road (wave two) - 1,437 responses*
- Living Wage - 48 responses

* = still in field as of 8 December

2. Replace the final point with:

Council resolves to continue to work across political party in the best interests of this city.

Following debate, the mover of the original motion advised that he did not wish to subsume into it the amendment.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment was CARRIED.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the substantive notice of motion including the amendment was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

This council is committed to taking efforts to improve local government transparency and accountability.

Council notes the significant improvements in involving councillors from all parties since May 2018, reversing the Tory secrecy. For instance:

- **Bringing back the cross-party working group on homelessness, now with outside agencies and an independent Chair.**
- **Creating the cross-party working group on sea defences**
- **All member briefings on key acquisitions such as Lakeside, a contrast to the secrecy and failure to follow due process that surrounded Victory Energy**
- **Making sure opposition councillors again sat on the body that oversees cutting crime in Portsmouth.**
- **Making sure notices of motion are debated at Full Council first time, rather than shunted off somewhere else only to be debated at Full Council months later**
- **Increasing seats on the Health and Wellbeing Board so all three political parties are represented**
- **Introducing regular cross-party portfolio briefings outside decision meetings and briefings for all members on how the Council is tackling Coronavirus.**

Council also notes the encouraging responses to council consultations. As of 12 November this year, 21,058 residents replied to 35 consultations issued in 2020, outlined below. Council also notes the second wave of the coronavirus resident research, which includes the budget consultation, is launching today. In addition, almost 2,200 staff replied to internal consultations. The public consultations were:

- **Food waste trial survey - 896 responses**

- Private rental sector strategy (wave one) - 849 responses
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- Seafront Masterplan - 1,268 responses
- Collaborative Enhancements Plan - 288 responses
- Special School Nursing service provision consultation - 51 responses
- Private Rental Sector Strategy (wave two) - 682 responses
- Local Transport Plan 4 - 848 responses*
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - 626 responses
- Colas resident survey 2020 - 1,726 responses
- Sports and Leisure facilities - 1,450 responses*
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- Living Wage - 48 responses

* = still in field as of 8 December

Council resolves to continue to work across political party in the best interests of this city."

Council adjourned at 2230.

Council resumed at 2240.

102.h Save the Union Learning Fund

It was

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery
Seconded by Councillor Graham Heaney

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

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, notice of motion (h) was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was established in 1998 to promote activity by trade unions in support of the objective of creating a learning society. Its primary aim was to develop the capacity of trade unions and Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning in the workplace.

The scope of the ULF has gradually broadened since 1998, as union capacity has grown and government strategic objectives have changed and unions have been encouraged to work on improving access to work and to work in the community.

The ULF is managed and administered by Unionlearn, the TUC's Learning and Skills Organisation under an agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) which directs the level and type of learning activity that should be supported by the Fund.

Unionlearn's main functions are to support unions to:

- **Become effective learning organisations and broker learning opportunities for their members.**
- **Improve union engagement with and influence on learning and skills policy.**
- **Engage effectively with employers, employees and providers to help support the most disadvantaged learners in the labour market; focusing on supporting maths and English learners and the take-up of high quality apprenticeships and traineeships that will contribute to the Government's commitment to support the delivery of 3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020, as well as promoting the Apprenticeship Levy and new employer-led apprenticeship standards.**
- **Engage with employers to support them in developing new apprenticeship standards to replace frameworks.**
- **Provide support and advice to apprentices and trainees and help resolve any issues.**
- **Engage effectively with employers and other stakeholders to support the learning and skills developments required to tackle poverty and disadvantage and promote employment and the growth of the economy.**

- Engage effectively with employers to develop learning and skills strategies that address both organisational and individual skills needs.
- Evaluate and provide an evidence base for the unique contribution that unions make to improving economic and social mobility through learning and skills.

In early October, the TUC received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021. This is an astonishing and counterproductive decision – last year more than 200,000 learners got new skills through union learning

Only unions, through their network of reps, have been able to reach these workers and help them get into learning. In the middle of the deepest recession of our lifetimes, this is not the time to cut skills and training. The government must reverse this decision – and keep learners learning.

Full Council recognises the excellent results that have been achieved by the Union Learning fund:

- 68% of learners with no previous qualifications gained a qualification
- 68% of employers say unions are particularly effective at inspiring reluctant learners to engage in training and development
- 70% of learners would not have taken part in learning with union support
- Every £1 invested in the Union Learning Fund generated a total economic return of £12.24 (2017-2018 project)

Full Council therefore believes that the government should continue to invest in the Union Learning Fund and requests the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Education stating this view.

102.i Helping the HIVE

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

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 CARRIED by assent.

RESOLVED

The City Council puts on record its thanks for the work done by the HIVE and by the third sector more widely. While council would like to provide

greater financial help, it recognises the financial constraints it operates under and accepts that finding more money is probably unrealistic.

Council notes that local authorities can have a role in fundraising and that Portsmouth has a good record in this regard, with its local lottery having raised hundreds of thousands of pounds since its launch in 2016. The London Boroughs of Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea both promote Community Contribution schemes when collecting the council tax. These seek additional voluntary contributions from the most expensive properties to support council aligned charities. While both boroughs have found the percentage take up rate has been low, the mix of properties in those boroughs means the schemes are worthwhile. This approach would not work in Portsmouth.

Council however considers that promoting giving to the HIVE when collecting the council tax is an issue worth exploring. This could take the form of an insert in council tax bills or through a link prominent on the website for people paying online. It acknowledges the potential risks and accepts that any paper insert must not push envelopes over the maximum size for economy postage. It also recognises the legal constraints on the tax collection process. This notwithstanding, it asks the Cabinet to consider options for promoting donating to the HIVE as part of next year's tax collection process.

103. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

The Lord Mayor advised that there were 7 questions before Council today.

Question 1 was from Councillor Terry Norton

"What budget cuts have or will be made to cover the £750,000 shortfall left by the administration's inability to secure a sponsorship deal for the Spinnaker Tower?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, Councillor Steve Pitt.

Question 2 was from Councillor Graham Heaney

"What is the current status of the Council cycling near miss reporting tool since it was made permanent and is the data shared with stakeholders?"

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

Question 3 was from Councillor Tom Coles

"Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Food Waste trial in the north of Fratton and confirm when this will be rolled out to the rest of the ward?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, Councillor Dave Ashmore.

Question 4 was from Councillor Hannah Hockaday

"Could the cabinet member advise us of what they are doing to resolve the issue of continual flooding during heavy rain, of the highway in Cosham at Salisbury Road / Knowsley Road and Lonsdale Road?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, Councillor Dave Ashmore.

Question 5 was from Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

"Is the cabinet member fully committed to the continued greening of the streets in the city?"

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

Question 6 was from Councillor Claire Udy

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether or not the council is the freeholder to the building where 279 Commercial Road resides?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development, Councillor Steve Pitt.

Question 7 was from Councillor Cal Corkery

"Will the Cabinet Member for Housing commit to ensuring Landport Community Garden remains open as a resource for local residents?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Councillor Darren Sanders.

The Lord Mayor thanked members and officers for their virtual attendance at the meeting and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting concluded at 0.12 am.

Lord Mayor