

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council as held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 11 October 2017.

Attendance:

Councillor McLean (The Mayor in the Chair) (P)

Councillors:

Achwal	Huxstep (P)
Ashton (P)	Izard
Bell (P)	Jefferies (P)
Bentote	Laming (P)
Berry (P)	Learney (P)
Brook (P)	Mather (P)
Burns	Miller (P)
Byrnes (P)	Pearson (P)
Clear (P)	Porter (P)
Cook (P)	Prince (P)
Cutler (P)	Read (P)
Elks (P)	Ruffell (P)
Evans (P)	Rutter (P)
Gemmell	Scott (P)
Godfrey (P)	Stallard
Gottlieb (P)	Tait (P)
Green	Thacker
Griffiths (P)	Thompson (P)
Hiscock (P)	Tod (P)
Horrill (P)	Warwick (P)
Humby (P)	Weir (P)
Hutchison	Weston

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2017 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND THE LEADER**

The Mayor paid tribute to former Councillor Robert Hutchison following his recent death.

The Mayor then also reported that he had recently attended the funerals for Denise, Mayoress and friend to former Councillor and Mayor Chris Pines and also Christina, wife of former Councillor and Mayor David Sermon. The Mayor

also reported on the passing of Jill, wife of former Councillor and Leader Keith Wood.

The Mayor asked that Council stand in silent tribute to their memory.

Next, the Mayor announced that he was pleased to see many councillors at Law Sunday last week as this was a major civic event for the city.

The Mayor reported on some of the appointments he had recently undertaken. These had included attending the recent Interfaith luncheon at Winchester Cathedral and the nurses badge awards ceremony for the recognition of midwifery students at the Royal County South Hampshire Hospital, Winchester. The Mayor also reported that he had attended Twyford School to award certificates for high achievers and also Upham School for the presentation of a cheque to enable building works to be undertaken.

Finally, the Mayor announced his forthcoming charity events. On 2 November there was to be a MS Society Talk in Abbey House and on 14 November there was to be a Tapas and Classical Guitar Evening at Georgios in Bishops Waltham. On 30 November there was to be Gin Tasting in Abbey House.

The Leader made no announcements.

3. **THE MAKING OR TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BODIES SET UP BY THE COUNCIL**

Other than the matters to be considered at Agenda Item 8, there were no changes.

4. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS ETC**

Councillor Tod declared a personal interest as he was a County Councillor and member of the Hampshire County Council Environment, Transport and Economy Committee. This had previously discussed its traffic management and development management agency arrangements with district Councils. This was referred to in the response provided by the Portfolio Holder to Council Question 2.

5. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

11 Questions were asked by Members, which are set out in full on the Council's website, together with responses from the relevant Portfolio Holder. The Mayor allowed time for supplementary Questions to be asked and responded to.

6. **PETITIONS**

There were no petitions received.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

(a) **Audit Committee – 28 September 2017**

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW

(Report AUD197 refers)

The Chairman of the Audit Committee Councillor Cutler moved that the Recommended Minute of the Audit Committee be approved and adopted. Councillor Cutler introduced the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Recommended Minute of the Audit Committee be approved and adopted.

8. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Leader moved that the Recommendations in Report CL135 be approved and adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Humby.

RESOLVED:

That the Recommendations in Report CL135 be approved and adopted as follows:

1. That the Membership of the Standards Committee be increased to 11 (no deputies) for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year – 6 Conservative and 5 Liberal Democrats.
2. That appointments to the Standards Committee be agreed as follows:

Conservative – Councillors Berry, Gemmell, Mather, Tait (Chairman), Stallard and Huxstep

Liberal Democrats – Councillors Bell, Izard, Laming, Clear and Evans

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(a) The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Thompson, under Council Procedure Rule 9:

“In order to protect the public, and show our strong commitment to our staff, this council will become a 'safer recruiting council'. Becoming a 'Safer Recruiting' Council brings about a new culture of Good Practice. All job advertisements will advertise this fact, and that DBS checks may be undertaken if staff or any person who is paid by Winchester City Council are in continued contact with members of the public.

This means that staff and councillors who are working closely with the public on very personal matters will be fully informed of the safeguarding issues of which they should be aware and DBS checks will be carried out at the start of every councillor's term of office.”

During the debate which followed, the following points were raised for future consideration:-

- The process for an enhanced DBS checks was understood to be very straightforward and would provide useful reassurance to the public. It would also provide due diligence upon the Council to ensure that the checks were undertaken for councillors and for those officers who were in regular contact with the public within the community.
- Safeguarding can also be about other types of exploitation, such as financial control over vulnerable people and scams etc.
- Councillors often see residents over extended periods as part of their case work and therefore need to be made aware of how to react to certain situations.
- Although councillors could be DBS checked upon their election, it was recognised that this was only effectively a record of a ‘snap shot in time’.
- Becoming a ‘Safer Recruiting Council’ would require appropriate safeguarding training was undertaken.
- Councillor Godfrey (Portfolio Holder for Professional Services) reported that there were nationally defined criteria as to who was able to stand to be a Councillor. Furthermore, DBS checks were normally undertaken at pre-employment stage. Therefore, had the process brought anything to light, how you could this be dealt with once the councillor had been elected?
- Pre-employment checks were already carried out for certain officers. This was dependant on their roles and where this was considered necessary.
- It was unlawful to carry out DBS checks on individuals when eligibility criteria had not been met. There was a DBS eligibility tool on line and this had demonstrated that the eligibility criteria with regard to district councillors was not met.
- Councillors do need to be aware of the safeguarding issues and how to protect vulnerable members of the community. This could include Trigger Tool training.
- In conclusion, Councillor Godfrey, reported that he was satisfied that the Council was already a Safe Recruiting Council, however it should ensure that appropriate and regular training was offered on the matter, including at induction.
- The Chief Executive proposed that the Personnel Committee review this matter and advised that Member induction was already under review.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be referred to a future meeting of the Personnel Committee for further investigation and report back to Council.

(b) The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Tod, under Council Procedure Rule 9:

“This council notes:

- The plans by local universities to increase student numbers
- The dramatic increase in the number of proposals for dedicated student housing coming forward from private developers
- The impact dedicated student housing can have on local residents in some cases and the concern that this causes
- The lack of planning policy to clarify:
 - Expected numbers of extra student housing places needed
 - The type of student housing needed
 - Any necessary planning principles for deciding suitable locations which minimise the impact on local residents
 - The level of ongoing management of student accommodation expected from private developers

This council therefore resolves to put in place a working group to work with local universities, residents and other interested parties to develop and recommend Supplementary Planning Guidance on dedicated student housing to address these and any other relevant issues.”

During the debate which followed, the following points were raised for future consideration:-

- It was appropriate that the Council engage with local higher education institutions and those organisations dedicated to the provision of student housing. In recent times, there has been several student accommodation proposals brought forward from private developers.
- Although the Council had put in place Article 4s in Winchester, these were about limiting Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This Notice of Motion was specifically with regard to planning for dedicated student housing.
- Winchester University’s aspirations to expand their student numbers were known. However, the Council should engage with all of Winchester’s higher education institutions with regard to their plans. This would include the Winchester School of Art and also Sparsholt College.
- The Council would be reviewing its Local Plan from 2018 and therefore this issue should be considered and fed into this process.
- An Informal Scrutiny Group in 2013 previously considered matters related to the impact of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) on the

city's estates. The issues surrounding student accommodation should not be considered in isolation from those of HMOs.

- Some houses on the Stanmore estate had had extensions built for the purposes of accommodating more rooms to rent.
- Had there been discussions with King Alfred College in the 1990s when it had first aspired to be an expanding university about future student accommodation?
- Traditional student accommodation in shared houses was not always of a safe, suitable condition. Good quality and reasonably priced purpose built accommodation was the way forward.
- It should be the responsibility of higher education institutions to ensure that their students were able to be accommodated prior to them being accepted onto courses.
- There has been a recent proliferation of private applications for student accommodation. Applicants should have appropriate guidelines to refer to.
- Winchester valued its educational centres but there should be further thought given as to how students and graduates should be best accommodated in the city.
- It was acknowledged that universities generally do not provide 100 percent accommodation for its students.
- Councillor Brook highlighted that higher education institutions were already consulted as part of the local plan process. This process included establishing housing need, which included for students. Having evidence to support would allow the Council to make an appropriate policy response.
- The Chief Executive proposed that it was appropriate for this matter to be firstly referred to the Cabinet (Local Plan) Committee in the first instance so that the proposal was able to be scoped.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be referred to a future meeting of the Cabinet (Local Plan) Committee for further investigation and report back to Council.

10. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
###	Report of the Chief Executive) Information relating to a particular individual. (Para 1 to Schedule 12A refers).)) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. (Para 2 to Schedule 12A refers))) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority. (Para 4 to Schedule 12A refers)

11. **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
(Report CL136 refers)

Council referred to a report that set out organisational development proposals (detail in exempt appendix).

The meeting commenced at 7pm, adjourned between 8.50pm and 9.15pm and concluded at 10.25pm.