



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 6 December 2017 at 10am

Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present:

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Dr Andrew Miller	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Andrew Gravells (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Shaun Parsons (Chairman)	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Jack Williams
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Keith Rippington	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	

Apologies: Councillors Chris Coleman, Steve Robinson and Suzanne Williams

Honorary Aldermen Terry Parker John Sewell and Gordon Shurmer

67. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A copy of the declarations of interest is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

69. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Cllr Jim Parsons
The Chairman invited members to stand in silence as a mark of respect to Cllr Jim Parsons who had passed away on 14 September 2017. Jim had been a longstanding member of Cotswold District Council and had been their representative on the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a number of years.
- b) Gloucestershire Archives
UNESCO had informed the Council that an African slave song held by Gloucestershire Archives had been included in the Memory of the World Register. The song came from the sugar plantations of Barbados and was written down in the late 18th Century by anti-slave trade campaigner Granville Sharp who had Gloucestershire descendants. Although the document was over 200 years old, it was a timely reminder that the fight against modern day slavery continued across the World today. It was agreed that the words of the song would be made available after the meeting through Members' Matter.
- c) Libraries and Information Digital Innovation display
From self-service machines to 3D printers libraries were now using digital solutions to promote smarter working for staff, opportunities for young people to develop coding skills, support businesses and help residents to become digitally confident. A display would be on the landing outside the Council Chamber during the lunch break.

70. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Fourteen public questions had been received. No supplementary questions were asked.

71. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

72. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Richard Boyles, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, referred to the importance of the Virtual School in supporting children in care. The Gloucestershire Virtual School was one of only three schools to receive a national award from Achievement for All in the Celebrating Every Child Awards 2017. He hoped that members would make an effort to attend Virtual School events. He asked members who had not allocated all of their Children's Activity Fund to consider contributing the balance to the Virtual School.

A member expressed concern that, given the Ofsted report, some members had still not signed the Corporate Parenting Pledge.

Another member believed that members should be kept better informed regarding children in care with invites being sent to events. He felt that this was more important than signing a pledge.

Cllr Boyles stated that the Corporate Parenting web pages included details of all the events due to be held over the coming year. However, he undertook to speak to officers about how they could engage more with members and keep them better informed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

73. MOTIONS

Motion 800 - Adoption and promotion of electric vehicles

Cllr Rachel Smith proposed and Cllr Iain Dobie seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Smith thanked officers for their support in providing information relating to the motion. She said that the main drivers for electric vehicles were climate change, air quality and cost savings. She believed that it was incumbent on the Council to set an example. She noted that electric vehicles worked out cheaper to run over four years with even greater savings achievable over the longer term. The Council had direct control over 90 vehicles and provided funding for 825 taxis and buses. She stated that changes to procurement practices were essential to ensure that school buses were more energy efficient and less polluting. She referred to a number of other local authorities that were already using electric vehicles. These included the London Fire Brigade, Oxford City Council, Lewes District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Westminster City Council, the London Borough of Havering and Cornwall Council.

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Cllr Dobie explained that the motion aimed to nudge the Council in the right direction. He noted that, following an amendment to the Council's budget, residents with electric vehicles now benefited from free residents' parking. He said that a commitment to convert 10% of Council vehicles to electric over two years equated to just nine vehicles. He believed that bus companies should commit to reducing pollution by running cleaner vehicles. He noted the poor air quality outside Leckhampton School which had been recorded as the worst outside a school in the county. He was anxious that the Council committed to concrete action by supporting this Public Health motion.

Cllr Nigel Moor, the Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, was already committed to reducing carbon emissions. He referred to the introduction of LED street lighting across the county and the reuse of energy at the Javelin Park residual waste facility. He recognised the importance of electric vehicles in reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. He said that the Council was already looking to provide more charging points across the county. He noted that the majority of vehicles operated by the Council were vans and HGVs and there were currently limited opportunities to replace them with electric vehicles. He stated that a scrutiny task group chaired by Cllr Jeremy Hilton was looking at air quality and this would allow opportunities to be considered.

The meeting was adjourned for a short period while Group Leaders considered an amendment to the motion.

Cllr Smith and Cllr Dobie accepted the following changes to the motion (see the highlighted text):

This Council notes the great importance of good air quality to public health and wellbeing in Gloucestershire. Poor air quality not only contributes to 40,000 premature deaths in the UK every year, but also limits uptake of cycling, and reduces pedestrian numbers - harming wider public health goals.

This Council further welcomes the £500m allocated to support Electric Vehicles by the Chancellor in the recent budget.

This Council notes that a leading cause of air pollution is vehicle emissions. This Council further notes that air quality monitoring is a district responsibility, but that air quality issues need a co-ordinated approach between all local authorities in order to reduce unnecessary deaths from poor air quality and cut carbon emissions.

Councillors agree that more can be done through this authority to combat poor air quality, and welcome the formation of an air quality task group. Recognising the urgency of the problem of both air pollution and carbon emissions, this Council:

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- a) *Commits to moving to electric or low emission options wherever possible practicable for all direct or indirectly operated council vehicles at the earliest opportunity.*
- b) *Commits to replacing the vehicles within its fleet (owned or leased) with electric or low emission vehicles where possible with a view to deliver 5% by 2020.*
- c) *Commits to establishing principles for use in procurement to encourage use of electric or low emission vehicles by Council contractors.*
- d) *Commits to engaging with district councils and other relevant stakeholders to promote adoption of electric and low emission vehicles, including through identifying schemes, funding and other incentives for provision of publicly accessible EV charging points, and EV charging points in new housing developments.*

Some members expressed concern that reducing the target for electric and low emission vehicles from 10% to 5% showed a lack of ambition. They noted that 5% equated to just 4.5 vehicles.

A member believed that Gloucestershire should be at the forefront of the issue as it helped to promote the county and showed that it was forward thinking and innovative.

Another member said that it made no logical sense to replace vehicles early and it was practical to move over to lower emission vehicles over a period of time.

Cllr Hilton, the chair of the Air Quality Task Group, supported the amendment and advised that the task group would be holding a session on 16 January 2018 with a range of organisations to explore what was possible moving forward.

On being put to the vote, the revised motion received the unanimous support of the Council.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes the great importance of good air quality to public health and wellbeing in Gloucestershire. Poor air quality not only contributes to 40,000 premature deaths in the UK every year, but also limits uptake of cycling, and reduces pedestrian numbers - harming wider public health goals.

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- c) Commits to establishing principles for use in procurement to encourage use of electric or low emission vehicles by Council contractors.*
- d) Commits to engaging with district councils and other relevant stakeholders to promote adoption of electric and low emission vehicles, including through identifying schemes, funding and other incentives for provision of publicly accessible EV charging points, and EV charging points in new housing developments.*

Motion 801 - Votes at 16

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson proposed and Cllr Klara Sudbury seconded the following motion:

This Council notes that currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the UK.

This Council recognises that 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen.

This Council believes people who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

This Council therefore requests the Leader of this Council to write to all six Gloucestershire MPs asking that a letter be written to county representatives of the Youth Parliament to express support in lowering the voting age to 16.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Hodgkinson stated that voting at 16 had been in the manifesto of the Liberal Democrat Party since 2001. He said that over half of the MPs in Westminster supported voting at 16 with the Labour Party, Scottish National Party and Green Party all behind the campaign. He noted that 16 and 17 year olds in the Isle of Man and Jersey and in many countries throughout the World were already able to vote.

The introduction of Citizenship in schools and colleges had made 16 and 17 year olds more politically aware. Research showed that people who started voting at a young age carried on voting throughout their lifetime. Sixteen and 17 year olds could pay tax, consent to sexual relationships, get married, be a director of a company and serve in the armed forces. Young people were the future of the country with strong opinions and enthusiasm for life. Cllr Hodgkinson could not see any reason why they should not be allowed to vote. He called on the Council to be forward thinking and call for the voting age to be lowered to 16.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Klara Sudbury stated that in her role as Mayor of Cheltenham she had met with lots of young people who would welcome the opportunity to vote. She said that most councillors had no idea about the pressures of modern life for young people. The growth of the internet had shrunken the World and young people were a lot better informed today. She was concerned that young people were not being given an opportunity to have a voice. She believed that reducing the voting age would improve the quality of decision making and everyone would benefit.

A number of members spoke in support of the motion. They believed that democracy should not standstill but move to reflect the needs of a changing society. They noted the impact of younger voters during the Scottish Referendum and how it had helped reinvigorate democratic debate amongst families. Young people who attended question time events with politicians showed that they had a good understanding of the political issues of the day.

One member expressed concern that, although Citizenship courses were run in schools, there was little coverage of the political parties and what they stood for.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Leader of the Council, believed that it was vitally important to engage with young people whatever their age and listen to their views. He noted that children under 18 could consent to their own medical treatment but could be over-ruled if they were not felt to be competent. Children could take up a job from aged 14, there was no age limit on paying taxes and they could only get married or join the armed forces with the permission of their parents. Sixteen year olds could not drive a car, purchase a knife, make a will, sign a contract or watch some films.

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Other members spoke against the motion and believed that voting at 18 struck the right balance.

In summing up, Cllr Hodgkinson stated that he was embarrassed about what some members had said in speaking against the motion. He believed that it was patronising towards 16 year olds and he called for the voting age to be lowered to 16 to allow young people to be inspired, empowered and encouraged to get involved.

On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

Motion 802 – Increase in the State Pension Age for Women

Cllr Eva Ward proposed and Cllr Kate Haigh seconded the motion included on the agenda.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Ward stated that the change in State Pension Age was affecting women across the county and was causing financial hardship. She said that they had lost £51,000 over six years and were being forced to take jobs that were not suitable, including zero hour contracts. They were often carers for older relatives and their retirement plans had been shattered. She said that the national campaign, known as Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI), was not looking for the changes to be reversed but for proper transitional arrangements to be put in place.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Haigh recognised that the equalisation of pensions between men and women was a good thing but women of a certain age should not be discriminated against in this way and suffer severe financial hardship. She called upon the Leader of the Council to sign the letter alongside the Chief Executive.

Other members spoke in support of the motion, recognising that efforts to equalise the state pension between men and women had resulted in unintended consequences with women of a certain age suffering financially.

On being put to the vote, the motion received the unanimous support of the Council.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes that 39,400 women in Gloucestershire born on or after 05 April 1951 have been adversely affected by increase in the State Pension Age (SPA) and that these women have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA.

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The lack of appropriate notification has resulted in many women not being told about the changes until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls on the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements so that women do not live in hardship due to these State Pension Age changes and instructs the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and all the Members of Parliament representing Gloucestershire seeking their support for action by the Government.

Motion 803 – Council tax exemption for care leavers

Cllr Lesley Williams proposed and Cllr Brian Oosthuysen seconded the motion on the agenda.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Williams noted that the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' now funded a quarter of all property purchases in the UK. She said that a financially stable base to start out in life was vitally important. Research indicated that 57% of care leavers had problems managing their finances. What started out as falling slightly behind with bills could easily escalate to a court summons and recovery proceedings. She stated that Council Tax was a particular problem. She advised 48 local authorities had already passed resolutions to support the motion.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Oosthuysen said that care leavers were amongst the most vulnerable people in society and it was vital that they were supported in their transition into adult life.

Other members recognised the need to provide support to care leavers but they were not convinced that asking the district councils to provide an exemption from Council Tax was the best approach.

Cllr Richard Boyles, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, believed that the aspiration should be that young people who were brought up in the Council's care should be able to support themselves and should not need this type of support.

The meeting was adjourned for a short period while Group Leaders considered an amendment to the motion.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Oosthuysen accepted the following changes proposed to the motion (see the highlighted text):

This Council recognises that young people leaving care can be amongst the most vulnerable in our community and it is committed to supporting care leavers to

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successfully make the often difficult transition to adult life as part of its corporate parenting role.

This Council recognises that managing money and bills for the first time can be a particular challenge for care leavers, with research from the Centre for Social Justice finding that 57% of your people find it difficult to manage their money and avoid debt when leaving care.

This Council believes there is more that can be done to support Care Leavers and all aspects of Local Government have a part to play in giving this support. ~~This Council recognises that it does not set the Council Tax precept for the 6 District and Borough Authorities in the County however each of these Authorities will have Care Leavers living in their Districts.~~

~~*This Council therefore resolves to write to each of the Authorities asking them to introduce exemptions for council tax for care leavers between the ages 18-25.*~~

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to consider how we can better support care leavers in Gloucestershire in times of difficulty, and to bring forward proposals as part of the budget.

On being put to the vote, the revised motion received the unanimous support of the Council.

RESOLVED that

This Council recognises that young people leaving care can be amongst the most vulnerable in our community and it is committed to supporting care leavers to successfully make the often difficult transition to adult life as part of its corporate parenting role.

This Council recognises that managing money and bills for the first time can be a particular challenge for care leavers, with research from the Centre for Social Justice finding that 57% of your people find it difficult to manage their money and avoid debt when leaving care.

This Council believes there is more that can be done to support Care Leavers and all aspects of Local Government have a part to play in giving this support.

This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to consider how we can better support care leavers in Gloucestershire in times of difficulty, and to bring forward proposals as part of the budget.

Motion 804 – Joint working across the Emergency Services

Cllr Jeremy Hilton proposed and Cllr Paul Hodgkinson seconded the motion included on the agenda.

In proposing the motion, Cllr Hilton noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner had undertaken research costing more than £100,000 to assess whether there was a business case for him to take over the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). The County Council had spent a further £35,000 making the case for GFRS remaining under the control of the Council. He was pleased that the Commissioner had issued a press release that day highlighting areas for collaboration.

He stated that a great deal of work on blue light collaboration was being undertaken in Cornwall with a range of initiatives already in place. He recognised that in Gloucestershire, GFRS was already highly integrated within the County Council with Trading Standards, Emergency Management and ICT amongst the services falling under the responsibility of the Chief Fire Officer. He noted that the vehicle workshops at Waterwells were now also being used by Highways and the Local Resilience Forum was led by GFRS. The South Western Ambulance Service and Severn Area Rescue Association were already sharing premises with GFRS but there were further opportunities to explore. He believed that there might be opportunities for the fire joint training centre in Avonmouth to be used by the police and the ambulance service.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Hodgkinson said that he was pleased that GFRS would remain under the control of the Council. He recognised that the Council's relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner had been difficult at times but he hoped that it would be more constructive in the future. He was anxious that the bluelight services took the opportunity to share premises to allow them to have a better presence in rural communities. He referred to the opportunities for sharing premises in Bourton and Northleach within in his own division.

One member expressed concern that Gloucestershire Constabulary had been selling off its premises in Cheltenham. He believed that police and fire stations should not be integrated as they were distinct services.

Other members spoke in support of the motion and believed that the blue light services should share assets where it was sensible and cost effective to do so. They recognised that there were opportunities to improve local resilience by bringing fire, police and ambulance services together in towns.

Cllr Nigel Moor, the Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, advised that he had met the Police and Crime Commissioner with the Leader of the Council

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to discuss joint working. A governance committee with key people had been set up to allow joint approaches to be developed. A number of areas had already been identified including procurement and estate management. He was pleased to announce that proposals were being put together to develop a tri-service centre with fire, police and ambulance services co-located in Cirencester. He was anxious, however, that projects delivered real benefits and were not put forward for the sake of it.

In summing up, Cllr Hilton recognised that collaboration should only take place where it was appropriate and with proper agreement between all the parties involved. He was pleased that a governance committee had been established but he was anxious that an appropriate mechanism was established for non-executive members to scrutinise the proposals coming forward.

On being put to the vote, the motion received the unanimous support of the Council.

RESOLVED that

This Council welcomes the decision of the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner to withdraw his bid to takeover the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

This Council notes that 2017 Police and Crime Act places a duty on the blue light services to work together to provide more effective service to their communities.

This Council notes that Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service has an excellent track record on collaborating with the other emergency services on mutually beneficial projects.

This Council notes that Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue is currently consulting on its draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2018-2021

This Council therefore resolves to support the Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure in opening up discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner about opportunities for both services to work together on mutually beneficial projects, with both themselves and also with the ambulance service.

74. BLUE BADGE (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING) SCHEME

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive responding to the following motion which was passed by the Council on 22 March 2017:

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This Council recognises that regulations over who can and cannot get a blue badge are getting much stricter. As a Council we believe everyone who needs a blue badge should be able to get one.

This Council commits to review its Blue Badge Policy criteria and will invite all relevant community groups and interested partners to an open consultation over how we can make this service more accessible.

Cllr Lesley Williams, who had moved the original motion, thanked officers for producing the report. She noted that the Department for Transport was currently reviewing eligibility criteria regarding 'non-mobility disability' and the outcome of this process needed to be known before looking at the local scheme.

A member expressed concern regarding the time it had taken someone to get their blue badge renewed. He said that it had only been resolved after he had intervened.

Another member believed that there needed to be a better understanding of where people with blue badges could and could not park. He stated that there was confusion amongst road users and this was causing unnecessary tensions. He felt that the Council could do more to inform people and he suggested that, on occasions, it might be better to provide advice to blue badge holders and other road users rather than just ticketing cars.

RESOLVED *that the report of the Chief Executive be noted.*

75. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Eighteen member questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Cllr Bernie Fisher asked when the problem around the subsidence on the A438 would be resolved as this had been an issue for four years.

Cllr Vernon Smith stated that he understood the frustration with landslips and that action with regards to this was prioritised, with the best way forward considered. This particular landslip was a complex one and he would be happy to meet with the member and officers at the site to discuss further.

Question 3 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that his question related to serious abuse of children and that he was asking for a summary made publically available of the

visits made by council officers to Dowdeswell Court and Badgeworth Court to ensure it was on public record.

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he was happy to share the detail he had been provided with by officers. Records showed that the visits were made by senior officers in relation to placements by the County Council and other local authorities. The records did not categorise the nature of concern, but they were regarding staffing. The law around record keeping was not as robust back then.

Question 4 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked why, after a series of events, Gloucestershire County Council had failed to inform other councils of the concern. This was despite convictions and charges being brought around child sexual abuse. The member suggested that information had been given to the Council and that it had failed to act.

Cllr Richard Boyles explained that records showed that Gloucestershire County Council did send messages to other councils with regards to incidents. He stated that he was happy to work with officers and the police if an investigation was being carried out on these matters. It was important that the police were given the opportunity to carry out their investigations fully.

Question 5 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson explained that freedom of information requests to 40 councils had shown no record of any warnings or activity. He asked what the Cabinet Member could do to reassure victims?

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he would work with the police and partners fully. He was sympathetic to the victims. He explained that he could not comment on the activity of the Council in terms of communicating with other councils on this matter in the 1960s and 1970s. He could only focus on assisting with any current investigation.

Question 6 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that he had been provided with information that two County Councillors had been members of the advisory board which was part of the Badgeworth Court School. He had reservations about the information given in the written answer.

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he had shared all the information he had on the matter and that the Council did not have significant records of that period. He explained that the responsibility of licencing for the school during that time was the Department of Education and Science. Record keeping was not great years ago.

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Question 7 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked whether the Cabinet Member would commit to seeking out the Council’s Directors of Education serving from 1965 onwards to investigate the matter fully. He also asked if the Cabinet Member would commit to meeting the victims of abuse.

Cllr Richard Boyles reiterated that the investigation should be carried out by the Constabulary. He would work with the Police and that he would take legal advice to ensure that nothing obstructed their investigations. He was happy to meet with individuals in due time.

Question 8 – Cllr Joe Harris stated that there were similar serious concerns following a terrible Ofsted inspection. He asked whether an internal investigation would be carried out identifying the lessons learned following the closure of Colne House School.

Cllr Richard Boyles stated that a police investigation had been carried out in Autumn 2016 with no prosecutions resulting from that. If further information was available then the police would be interested in receiving that and the Council would provide any information requested to contribute to an investigation.

Question 9 – Cllr Simon Wheeler expressed his concern regarding the time taken to collect mobility equipment to social services. He asked whether the Cabinet Member would look into the reasons why and into this case in particular.

Cllr Kathy Williams stated that she would speak to the member following the meeting to understand the particular issues he had faced. She stated that there was a 90% return rate.

Question 10 – Cllr Colin Hay asked whether it was the time to increase the contribution from the Council to the GFirst LEP?

Cllr Lynden Stowe stated that he recognised the work that the LEP had done including securing over £100 million for infrastructure. He explained that the move forward to business rate pooling across the seven authorities would hopefully bring additional funding. He also referred to the new Local Industrial Strategy and what might come forward.

Question 14 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether the Leader of the Council could give assurances that women who needed to raise a harassment concern could do so with the confidence that they would be believed.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that he was able to give that assurance and said that if any member had suggestions on how to strengthen that pathway then he was happy to take those suggestions.

Question 15 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked the Cabinet Member if he could help her understand the £100m savings figure in relation to the Residual Waste Project at Javelin Park, particularly against the figures within the Ernst and Young Report and a target recycling rate of 70%.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou stated that when considering the long term investment, the £100m was the best estimate. He would look again at the figures Cllr Smith and raised and provide a response.

76. SCRUTINY REPORT

In presenting the report, Cllr Patrick Molyneux, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, advised that the committee had considered care workers and the national living wage following the motion passed at the last full Council meeting. He said that a Budget Scrutiny day would be held on 10 January 2018 and all members were welcome to attend. He confirmed that it would be held in public and Cabinet Members would be in attendance for the scrutiny of their service areas.

A member noted that a children's centre in his division had been rated by Ofsted as outstanding and he said that he was confused why there continued to be references to children's centres not reaching vulnerable groups. Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Leader of the Council, recognised that many children's centres were delivering good services to those families who were using them. However, he said that there remained questions as to whether they were reaching the most vulnerable families.

Cllr Brian Robinson, the Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, advised that the committee had received a number of reports on the Children's Services Improvement Plan. He said that progress was being made, albeit it was not as fast as Ofsted would like.

Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin, the Chair of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, stated that the committee would be receiving a progress report on the NHS Winter Plan as its meeting in January 2018. She undertook to consider whether the committee should scrutinise the Health and Wellbeing Board's activities.

Cllr Rob Bird, the Chairman of the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, explained that the Minerals Local Plan was worded in such a way that it addressed the main issues for Gloucestershire, namely sand and gravel extraction. There was no detailed assessment criteria for applications for mineral and gas extraction and this would need to be addressed should the need arise in future.

A member noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner was in discussion with HM Courts and Tribunal Services about the possibility of providing a new facility at Waterwells. Another member hoped that there would be an opportunity to scrutinise any decisions on the location of a new court facility. He believed that it would be best located in Gloucester City centre as it would be more accessible to local residents. Cllr Will Windsor Clive, the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, advised that this was not the business of the panel and members should make their views known to officers and partners involved in estate management.

RESOLVED to note the report.

77. GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

In presenting the report, Cllr Ray Theodoulou, the Chairman of the Pension Committee, thanked the members of the committee and officers for their support through 2016-17. He acknowledged the role of the Pension Board who had made some useful recommendations to the committee during the year. He stated that the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme had joined nine other public sector schemes as part of the Brunel Pension Partnership.

Answering questions, Cllr Theodoulou recognised the importance of choosing the right actuary. He noted that relatively small changes to actuarial rates had a significant impact on the revenue budgets of member authorities. He said that he did not anticipate any major impact from three local authorities transferring their staff into the new Publica Company.

RESOLVED that the Pension Fund Annual Report and the Pension Board Annual Report be noted.

78. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 9 October 2017.

78.1 Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed that the committee chair should be determined by members of the opposition groups. Cllr Hawthorne questioned whether this was lawful.

With the support of Council, the recommendation was referred back to the Constitution Committee for further consideration.

78.2 Gloucestershire Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

***RESOLVED** that the constitution be amended, as set out in annex B to the report, to include the requirement for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the decisions, plans and policies of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee.*

78.3 Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

A member expressed concern regarding the removal of opposition members from the board. He believed that only having one political group represented on the board was not good for local democracy. He called for the new arrangements to be reviewed after a suitable period.

***RESOLVED** that the revised terms of reference for the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in annex C to the report, be approved and adopted.*

78.4 Oral questions at full Council

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed to retain the 30 minute notice prior to the meeting for oral questions from the public. Cllr Hawthorne advised that the change to 12 noon the day before would allow a proper answer to be provided rather than a written answer after the meeting. On being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated.

***RESOLVED** that procedural standing orders in section 9 of part 4 of the constitution be amended as indicated in annex D to the report.*

78.5 Motions at meetings of full Council

It was noted that some changes to the length of speeches had been suggested at Group Leaders and this would be considered at the next meeting of the Constitution Committee.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

78.6 Employee Code of Conduct

RESOLVED that the revised *Employee Code of Conduct*, as set out in annex E to the report, be approved and adopted.

78.7 Monitoring Officer changes to the constitution

RESOLVED that the changes to the constitution by the Monitoring Officer shown at annexes F, G and H be ratified.

79. CABINET DECISION STATEMENT

RESOLVED to note the *Cabinet Decision Statements* from the Cabinet meetings held on 18 September, 27 September and 15 November 2017.

80. INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS

RESOLVED to note the *Individual Cabinet Decision Statements* for the period 1 September to 30 November 2017.

The meeting ended at 3.10pm

CHAIRMAN