



## FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 10am

Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present:

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

Apologies: Councillors Stephen Davies, Carole Allaway Martin, John Payne and Klara Sudbury.

Honorary Aldermen Bill Crowther, Bill Hobman, Terry Parker, John Sewell, Gordon Shurmer and Mike Williams.

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

## **67. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and Extraordinary Meeting, both held on 12 September 2018 were signed as a correct record.

## **68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **69. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) Jo Walker, Strategic Director: Finance and Section 151 Officer  
The Chairman congratulated Jo Walker on her appointment as the Chief Executive of North Somerset Council. He stated that Jo had joined the Council 30 years ago as a trainee accountant and quickly rose through the ranks as a result of her enthusiasm, hard work and 'can do' attitude. He said that Jo could always be relied upon to give sound financial advice and he thanked her for everything that she had done for the Council.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and Cllr Lesley Williams each paid tribute to Jo and thanked her for the impartial advice that she gave to each political group. They said that she would be greatly missed but they wished her well in her new role.

The Chairman presented Jo with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her service to the Council.

- b) First World War - 100 years  
The Chairman had attended the Gloucester Cathedral Service on 11 November 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War.
- c) Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) bed push  
The Chairman congratulated GFRS on raising in excess of £21,000 for Gloucestershire Hospitals' Oncology Department.
- d) 100 years celebration  
An event would be held at Shire Hall on 14 December 2018 to celebrate 100 years of suffrage. Women from across the county would be invited to attend including a number who were more than 100 years old.

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e) Prince of Wales

The Chairman advised that he had written to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

f) Chief Fire Officer

Wayne Bowcock had been appointed as the new Chief Fire Officer.

g) Severe weather in the US

The Chairman reported that he had written to Sheriff Darell Warren of Gloucester County in Virginia following Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael.

h) Gloucestershire Music

The Chairman congratulated the County Youth Orchestra, Duality Winds, Youth String Ensemble and Youth Wind Orchestra who had performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall and Town Hall in the UK's largest youth music festival.

i) ICT support

Staff from ICT would be on hand over the lunch break to provide advice to members.

j) Gloucestershire Archives

The Chairman advised members that the event due to be held on 5 December 2018 to mark the opening of the new Dunrossil Centre had been rearranged for 3 April 2019. More details would follow in Members' Matter in the New Year.

## **70. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Eight questions had been received. A copy of the answers was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

Question 1 – Roger Whyborn asked whether the County Council would now set up a working group to listen to local councillors and representatives in order to reach a consensus in the light of more recent thinking.

Cllr Vernon Smith explained that he shared the frustration and that there was no consensus with the community. He was happy for him to work with the County Council and Local Highways Manager to see if safety measures could be put in place that everyone agreed with.

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Question 2 – Brian Pearman asked if the County Council would support residents of the South Forest and local councils to press the CCG to provide appropriate health care provision for the area.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated that in the absence of Cllr Allaway Martin, Chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, the question would be noted and a written response provided.

## **71. CORPORATE PARENTING**

Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, advised members of a number of highlights from the Fostering Service 2017-18 Annual Report. He said that meetings of the Fostering Panel were being held to meet demand and reduce delays. A new evening men's support group for male foster carers had been established which had proved successful. The training programme for foster carers had been improved with more online courses and a new annual conference.

As part of the Right First Time Placement Strategy, Cllr Boyles explained that there was now a much greater emphasis on preventing the breakdown of placements. He provided information on the approval rates for people wishing to foster and core performance data. He said that the long term aim was to achieve 80% of fostered children living with in-house foster carers. Targets had been set for the next three years and a budget bid had been submitted to support the growth required. A revised payments structure had been introduced in October 2018 which was more equitable for all carers and more competitive in the market place.

Answering a question, Cllr Boyles explained that unaccompanied asylum seekers and children who came into the Council's care as a result of modern slavery would be looked after for as long as required. He assured members that they would in no way be discriminated against whilst applications to stay in the UK or proceedings to return to their home country were ongoing. He said that children's social workers received specific training in this area to ensure that young people in this situation received the support that they needed.

A member commended Cllr Boyles on the progress that was made to improve Children's Services but he recognised that there was much more than needed to be done. He expressed concern that press releases issued following Ofsted visits were overly positive and did not reflect the issues faced by the Council. Cllr Boyles said that it was important for morale that positive changes were recognised and that staff were congratulated. He noted that the last press release acknowledged that there was much more to be done.

Other members thanked Cllr Boyles for everything he was doing to improve Children's Services. They reminded members that they were all corporate parents and they should put politics to one side and make every effort to engage with children in care. They expressed disappointment at the poor attendance by members at a recent event held in the Council Chamber for care leavers. They noted that foster care groups took place across the county and they hoped that members would make the effort to go along to their local group to gain a better understanding of the issues.

## **72. PETITIONS**

Cllr Nigel Moor presented a petition to Cllr Vernon Smith on behalf of Moreton Park residents relating to street lighting on a footpath.

Cllr Lynden Stowe and Cllr Nigel Moor jointly presented a petition to the Chairman relating to radiography services at North Cotswolds Hospital.

## **73. MOTIONS**

### **Motion 825 – Protecting Gloucestershire Hospitals' walk-in-services**

In presenting the motion on the agenda, Cllr Joe Harris recognised that the Gloucestershire Hospitals' Trust had faced severe financial difficulties and he paid tribute to hard work and commitment of clinicians and all the support staff working in hospitals in Gloucestershire. He said that they went well beyond what was expected of them. He stated that the walk-in services at Accident and Emergency, Urgent Care Centres and Minor Injury Units were greatly valued at the nine hospitals where these services were offered. He noted that at a recent meeting of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, the Hospitals' Trust had assured members that proposed changes to General Surgery would not impact in any way on the walk-in services provided across the county.

Cllr Harris stated that he was particularly concerned at the reduction in radiography services in five hospitals. He said that community hospitals like those in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh were jewels in the crown and he believed that they should be helped to develop their services to meet the needs of local communities. He appealed to the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Gloucestershire Hospitals' Trust to protect walk-in services across the county.

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In seconding the motion, Cllr Iain Dobie referred to the downgrading of Accident and Emergency at Cheltenham General Hospital to Urgent Care. He said that the proposal to remove General Surgery facilities at Cheltenham posed a further threat to emergency services. He noted that this meant that if anyone at Cheltenham General Hospital required emergency surgery they would have to be transferred by ambulance to Gloucester Royal Hospital.

Cllr Tim Harman, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, acknowledged the efforts of hospital staff and he fully supported the motion. He recognised the great value that the local community placed on Accident and Emergency facilities at Cheltenham General Hospital. He called for a doctor-led Accident and Emergency Unit to be reinstated in Cheltenham without delay.

Other members indicated strong support for the motion. They recognised the importance of Accident and Emergency facilities in Cheltenham not just for the town but for the eastern side of the county including the Cotswolds. They also noted the important role of the community hospitals which particularly helped elderly residents in the more rural parts of the county to access a range of health services. One member referred to the vital service provided to the local community by Tetbury Hospital. He said that it was often forgotten as it was a charitable trust and not an NHS Trust.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, said that he was pleased that members had been given an opportunity to express their views. He proposed a motion without notice that the original motion together with the comments made by members be referred to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He stated that the Scrutiny Committee had statutory powers which allowed it to challenge the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Hospital's Trust on their proposals. Cllr Roger Wilson seconded the motion without notice.

In summing up on the original motion, Cllr Joe Harris believed that there was an urgent need to invest in local hospitals so that they met the needs of residents. He referred to the good work undertaken by Cotswold District Councillor Dilys Neill in putting together the petition to protect Radiography Services at the North Cotswolds Hospital in Moreton-in-Marsh.

On being put to the vote, the following resolution received unanimous support:

***RESOLVED*** to refer the motion below to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

*This Council notes:*

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- *The value communities place upon the Accident and Emergency units in both Gloucester and Cheltenham*
- *The enormous and varied contributions made by the seven minor injury units spread across Gloucestershire*
- *The great value that communities across Gloucestershire place upon having hospital facilities close by*

*This Council further notes that all Walk in Centres, Urgent Care Centres, and Minor Injury Units will be rebranded as Urgent Treatment Centres by the end of 2019.*

*This Council resolves to write to Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, to appeal in the strongest possible terms, that none of the services currently on offer to walk-in patients at any of the nine hospitals are removed, including that Cheltenham General Hospital must not be further downgraded to an Urgent Treatment Centre from an Accident and Emergency department.*

### **Motion 826 – Crisis in Local Government funding**

In moving the motion on the agenda, Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that councils up and down the country were sat at breaking point with 60% of central government funding removed since 2010. He said that the cuts on local authorities were disproportionate in comparison with the rest of the public sector with a number of county councils, including Northamptonshire, Somerset and East Sussex, in serious financial difficulties. He recognised that some extra funding had been provided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recent Budget but he believed that this was nowhere near enough to support local services. The Local Government Association had highlighted the growing funding gaps and it was essential that urgent steps were taken to review the financial settlements for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

There was a short adjournment before Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed and Cllr Roger Wilson seconded the following amendment:

This Council notes:

- The unprecedented times that the country is facing and the job that local government is doing in providing local stability and leadership in these tumultuous times.
- The irreplaceable role that local councils play at the heart of communities, providing key public services that protect the most defenceless in society –

children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres.

- That some councils up and down the UK are at breaking point, are facing serious financial challenges with disproportionate reductions in local council funding in comparison to the rest of the public sector.
- That councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children and that, with an ageing population and growing demand, adult social care faces a funding gap of over £2 billion in the next financial year.

This Council further notes:

- That the Coalition Government and then the Conservative Government had to take difficult decisions to re-balance the nation’s accounts.
- The £1.3bn cut to Councils’ Revenue Support Grant that is due in 2019/20.
- That, according to a cross-party report by the Local Government Association, council services will face a funding gap of £3.9 billion in 2019/20, rising to £7.8 billion by 2024/25.
- That Gloucestershire County Council will receive an extra £10 million for Adult Social Care and road repairs this year.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing its dismay that the Government failed to sufficiently address the growing funding gaps with local councils in the Autumn Budget, and requesting that he urgently rectify this mistake in judgement noting the funding issues facing local councils and the importance of the Government’s Fairer Funding Review in addressing them.

Cllr Hawthorne recognised that future funding of local government was an important issue. He explained that the Council had been, and continued, lobbying the Government on a number of fronts including the Local Government Association, the County Council Network and service specific organisations. He believed that it was important to highlight the successes achieved such as the extra funding for Social Care. He said that the Council was not another ‘Northamptonshire’ in the waiting and had sound finances with appropriate steps being taken to plan for the future. He recognised that it was not just about the money available to local government but ensuring that it was distributed fairly according to need. The coming year would see the publication of a Social Care Green Paper, the Fairer Funding Review and more detail on the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

Cllr Wilson believed that the amendment strengthened the motion and made it less political and more balanced in sending a message to the Government. He said that he welcomed the additional funding for Adult Social Care and Children’s Services

along with the extra money for the NHS. He was pleased that the Government would at last be publishing a Green Paper on the future of Social Care.

A number of members expressed concern at the impact of austerity with local government being disproportionately affected despite being widely regarded as the most efficient part of the public sector. They believed that the cuts had the biggest impact on the most vulnerable people in society and were increasing inequality in society. Lord Porter, Chair of the Local Government Association, had requested the Government to address the funding crisis through the Fairer Funding Review.

Other members noted that the Council was in a strong position in comparison to some other counties as a result of prudent financial management. They recognised that the Council still faced financial challenges in future years but they were pleased that the Council had been able to invest in key areas such as roads and infrastructure. They were concerned that Gloucestershire received significantly less funds for schools than other areas and they supported the lobbying being undertaken for fairer funding.

A member paid a special tribute to the officers for their contribution towards the sound financial management of the Council. He said that it was on no small part down to them that the Council was in a much better position than elsewhere.

In summing up on the amendment, Cllr Hawthorne stated that it was important to demonstrate to the Government the higher cost of providing services in rural areas and highlight the complexity of delivering Children's Services. He recognised that there were challenges ahead and he noted the importance of politicians working together to develop long-term solutions.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was supported and became the substantive motion.

A member acknowledged the benefits of lobbying through the Local Government Association and the County Council Network but believed that it was still important for the Council to write to the Government itself. He expressed concern that the Council could be reliant on funding from business rates at a time businesses were lobbying strongly for a reduction in business rates. He called for a thorough review of local government funding including the mechanisms have for raising funds.

As the seconder of the original motion, Cllr Lesley Williams stated that austerity was not necessary but was by design. She expressed serious concern at the impact of the cuts and untold damage to society. She believed that the money recently announced was 'too little too late'. Councils had lost 60p in every £1 of Government

funding since 2010. She said that 14 million people in the country were living in poverty, including 2.8 million families, and 1.5 million people were destitute.

As the proposer of the original motion, Cllr Hodgkinson recognised that the Council was not in the desperate financial position of other counties but, with even bigger cuts to funding in 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Council could easily find itself in trouble. He noted that recent estimates indicated that 10% of local authorities were now close to bankruptcy. He called for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to fund local services properly.

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

***RESOLVED*** that this Council notes:

- *The unprecedented times that the country is facing and the job that local government is doing in providing local stability and leadership in these tumultuous times.*
- *The irreplaceable role that local councils play at the heart of communities, providing key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres.*
- *That some councils are facing serious financial challenges with disproportionate reductions in local council funding in comparison to the rest of the public sector.*
- *That councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children and that, with an ageing population and growing demand, adult social care faces a funding gap of over £2 billion in the next financial year.*

*This Council further notes:*

- *That the Coalition Government and then the Conservative Government had to take difficult decisions to re-balance the nation’s accounts.*
- *The £1.3bn cut to Councils’ Revenue Support Grant that is due in 2019/20.*
- *That, according to a cross-party report by the Local Government Association, council services will face a funding gap of £3.9 billion in 2019/20, rising to £7.8 billion by 2024/25.*
- *That Gloucestershire County Council will receive an extra £10 million for Adult Social Care and road repairs this year.*

*This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer noting the funding issues facing local councils and the importance of the Government’s Fairer Funding Review in addressing them.*

## **Motion 827 – Modern Slavery**

Cllr Kate Haigh proposed and Cllr Brian Oosthuysen seconded the motion included on the agenda.

In moving the motion on the agenda, Cllr Kate Haigh acknowledged the good work that the Council was already doing through the Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership chaired by Pete Bungard. She was anxious, however, that the Council made a public commitment to removing anti-slavery from its supply chain. She noted the role of both members and officers as the 'eyes and ears' in local communities. Modern slavery was often closer than people thought and was more prevalent in particular types of industry: car washes, nail bars, restaurants, agriculture and sex workers.

Cllr Kathy Williams, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery, said that she fully supported the motion. The Home Office estimated that there were 13,000 victims or former victims of Modern Slavery at the present time. She stated that the Council was taking a range of actions to combat Modern Slavery and she offered to provide further information on request.

Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, advised that staff that had access to premises as part of their jobs such as Firefighters and Trading Standards Officers had been trained to identify the signs of Modern Slavery.

Other members spoke in support of the motion. They welcomed the work being undertaken by the Council and Constabulary to combat anti-slavery. They recognised that Modern Slavery was often closer than you think and could affect anyone living in Gloucestershire. They were anxious to promote greater awareness of the problem through every means possible.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Brian Oosthuysen said that slavery was made illegal in 1833 but today it was generating £150 million each year for unscrupulous people who were exploiting the vulnerable. He noted how important it was for the Council to ensure that its supply chain was free from Modern Slavery.

In summing up, Cllr Haigh thanked members for their support. She recognised the importance of the Council working in partnership with the Police, District Councils, the Faith Community Work and other public sector partners.

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

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**RESOLVED** that this Council notes that Modern Slavery is one of the great evils of our time and it's happening under our noses. In nail bars, car washes, farms, factories and restaurants, it is estimated that tens of thousands of people in the UK could be victims.

*This Council also notes that:*

- Collectively, local authorities in England spend more than £40bn per year procuring goods and services. From car washes to cleaning and construction, councils do business with hundreds of different suppliers. Many of those firms will have contractors and suppliers of their own.*
- The Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern slavery goes further than existing law and guidance, committing councils to proactively vetting their own supply chain to ensure no instances of modern slavery are taking place.*

*This Council therefore resolves to adopt the principles of the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery.*

*The Council will:*

- 1 Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.*
- 2 Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.*
- 3 Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.*
- 4 Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.*
- 5 Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 6 Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 7 Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.*
- 8 Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.*

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- 9 *Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.*
- 10 *Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually Modern Slavery Charter.*

### **Motion 828 – Making Gloucestershire's countryside safe and accessible**

In proposing the motion on the agenda, Cllr Colin Hay recognised that the equestrian industry was a distinguishing selling point for Gloucestershire. He noted the importance of providing good bridleways and gates as part of a wider policy to make the countryside open to everyone. He said that Hartpury College with its strong equestrian background was fully supportive of any initiative that promoted Gloucestershire as a place to visit for horse riding. He referred to the benefits of working with horses for people with disabilities and behavioural issues.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Loraine Patrick acknowledged the benefits of improving bridle paths across the county.

Members recognised that Gloucestershire was recognised for world-wide for Eventing, National Hunt Racing and Dressage. They expressed strong support for the motion and hoped that action could be taken to improve access for horses in the countryside. They noted the way that bridle gates operated could be a real issue and there had been instances where riders had fallen off trying to open and close them. They believed that there might be some benefits in defining particular routes for horses as there could be a conflict with walkers and cyclists. They were supportive of promoting more considerate driving to take account of horse riders, walkers and cyclists.

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

***RESOLVED*** *that this Council notes the exceptional countryside in Gloucestershire and the significant economic and cultural benefits that this already gives to businesses and residents within the county.*

*However, this Council recognises that the county's countryside could be made safer and more accessible for people, including walkers, those with limited physical movement and equine users. This Council also recognises that relatively small infrastructure changes could further cement the county's position as a tourist destination of choice for country pursuits. Such improvements could include, but are not limited to:*

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- 1 Safe connections between walking routes and bridlepaths*
- 2 Gates on walking paths and bridleways that are more accessible for all users and easier to open on a horse.*
- 3 Well-drained surfaces in gateways*
- 4 Parking facilities on popular routes*

*This Council resolves to send this matter to the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee, for consideration on how the Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership can work with the tourist industry to turn Gloucestershire into an centre of excellence for walkers and equine users, helping businesses develop new and innovative practices.*

### **Motion 829 – Governance of the Fire Service**

In presenting the motion on the agenda, Cllr Dave Norman, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, expressed concern that the Police and Crime Commissioner was again taking steps to take over Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). He said that transferring GFRS to the Commissioner would be expensive, waste public money and not improve the service. He noted that the Commissioner had already spent £130,000 on the first case to take over GFRS and he was now looking to spend even more money building a second case. He believed that the Commissioner should be using this money to support his policing responsibilities. He stated that decisions on the fire and rescue service were made in public with the opportunity for questions and this opportunity did not exist under the Commissioner. GFRS was recognised nationally as providing an excellent service and he called on the Commissioner to drop his bid. The focus should now be on fire and rescue, police and ambulance services working collaboratively.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Jeremy Hilton believed that the Commissioner by reopening his bid for GFRS was not acting in the best interests of the service. He noted that a number of different administrations at the Council had run GFRS successfully for 44 years. Whenever issues arose swift action was taken to resolve issues. A joint board had now started work on collaboration amongst the emergency services.

Members from across the Council expressed strong support for GFRS remaining with the Council. They regretted the unfortunate events of the Summer but they were anxious that the recently appointed Chief Fire Officer was given time and space to manage the service. They believed that the right approach was to work

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collaboratively across the emergency services. They noted the valuable role of GFRS in supporting Adult Social Care.

They believed that the Commissioner was wasting valuable time and money in pursuing another bid and they called on him to concentrate on what he was elected to do: lead the police. Concerns were expressed around the lack of support for rural communities and failure to address rural crime.

Members believed that the Home Secretary should intervene and stop further waste of money by the Commissioner on pursuing an opportunist bid for GFRS. They noted the role of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in providing robust scrutiny of GFRS by non-executive members.

Some members expressed concern at the ongoing tension between the Council and the Commissioner and they hoped that steps could be taken to bring it to an end.

One member suggested that staff at GFRS decide themselves who they would prefer to run the service.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Leader of the Council, stated that the message from the Council to the Commissioner was a clear one: get on with the job that you were elected to do and stop wasting money on pursuing another bid for GFRS. He referred to the Commissioner's poor record on partnership working with his withdrawal from the Road Safety Partnership. He was concerned that the Commissioner might look to use spare capacity in GFRS to help with policing.

In summing up, Cllr Norman was pleased that so many positive comments had been made about GFRS. He said that GFRS had been well run by the Council over a long period and was recognised as one of the most efficient fire services in the country.

***RESOLVED*** that this Council restates its opposition to proposals to transfer the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue service from the County Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner. We call on the Police and Crime Commissioner to abandon the plan, and, if he does not, for the Home Secretary to reject it.

### **Motion 830 - Building a Statutory Youth Service**

There was not sufficient time for the following motion proposed by Cllr Steve Robinson and seconded by Cllr Lesley Williams to be considered at the meeting:

This Council notes:

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- Youth work is a distinct educational process offering young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase their confidence, develop inter-personal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. This leads to better informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people.
- Cuts to youth services have devastated the lives of young people by damaging community cohesion, making it harder to stay in formal education, and having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing. 83% of youth workers say the cuts have had an effect on crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Youth work as a profession has been eroded and undermined through funding cuts and market reforms, and that overall spending on youth services in England has fallen by £737m (62%) since 2010.

This Council believes:

- Youth services should be made statutory, recognising the important role universal youth work plays in supporting young people to realise their potential.
- There should be a mandated national body with dedicated ring fenced funding to oversee youth service provision across England.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Write to the six Gloucestershire MPs to ask them to support and campaign for statutory youth services.

#### **74. MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Forty seven questions had been received. A copy of the answers was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

Question 1 – Cllr Iain Dobie asked whether the cabinet member agreed that the net effect of the movement of the building of a new secondary school in Cheltenham would lead to more expensive housing and less community green space.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that while he agreed that the building would reduce the amount of green space, he did not agree that it would necessarily lead to more expensive housing in the area. Clear guidance had been taken from Counsel and it was felt that the only sensible option was to build on County Council land. He was convinced that it was the right site and would be a very good secondary school for Cheltenham.

Question 5 – Cllr Kate Haigh asked whether the intention was to collate data so it was clear what unsupervised visits were undertaken by unqualified Children’s Social Workers.

Cllr Richard Boyles explained that as part of the training programme, when proper assessments had been carried out, those social workers in training would carry out unsupervised visits. They would also declare their position with the family and these visits would not include statutory visits such as for those children in care. He would discuss further with the Director of Children Services as to how data was collated.

Question 7 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton referred to the Joint Waste Committee minutes from June, noting that it was important that decisions were taken in unison. He asked if any plans were in place to charge at recycling centres.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that there was no charging going forward. The changes to recycling centres had been a balancing act with investment to make them more efficient and user friendly.

Question 8 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton welcomed the new equipment being provided to Household Recycling Centres but stated that he believed that the centres should be open seven days a week.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou explained that this was the right use of council resources and that the Council could only spend the money it had.

Question 9 - Cllr Alan Preest stated that he had already asked Health Scrutiny to look at concerns around future health care provision for the South Forest. Referring to the answer provided to his question, he asked for further details on the commitment made to Lydney people as part of the planning process and asked that the Chair of Health and Care Scrutiny Committee address this with the Clinical Commissioning Group.

In the absence of the Chair of Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, a written response would be provided.

Question 10 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked what the Council had done to prepare for Brexit since the last meeting.

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Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that the Council had not taken any direct action regarding this but was paying close attention to the advice from the LGA. He referred to a recent update from the LGA relating to EU nationals standing for district election in 2019 and reiterated that the LGA had a seat at the table and was making good progress.

Question 12 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that all of the collected plastics would be going to the County Recycling Centres and were being recycled.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that this was the responsibility of district councils. In relation to the Swindon situation, he understood that this was a local issue relating to the recycling of plastics.

Question 13 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson identified Prism network, and stated that total funding this year for the network was £250. He asked how the Council could justify such a small amount of money given the work they were doing.

Cllr Tim Harman replied that he would come back to the member with details of how it was calculated.

Question 14 – Cllr David Brown asked whether the Leader of Council would not work with the Commissioner to request more money from the Home Secretary for Policing.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that with the Commissioner's recent consultation on a business case to take on the governance of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, he did not feel he could justify the Commissioner's stance that there was not enough funding. He stated that the Council had an excellent track record of working in collaboration and wished for a good working relationship with the Commissioner.

Question 15 – Simon Wheeler asked whether the Cabinet Member would engage with him to talk to local members and other stakeholders to discuss a way forward in relation to the introduction of a 20mph scheme in residential areas in Cheltenham.

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Cllr Nigel Moor drew the member's attention to the report from the Minister of State for the Department of Transport looking at the impact of 20mph schemes. He asked the member to keep an open mind about the types of schemes he wished to introduce. As the Highways Authority the Council would look to support the councillor as appropriate but it was a matter for him as the local member to progress.

Question 24 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked what the Council was doing to promote the daily mile to the 48% of children that were not currently running it.

Cllr Richard Boyles explained that there was work underway with the Public Health team to run a Gloucester Healthy Living and Learning Programme with primary schools. The 52% figure for those running the daily mile was one of the best in the country.

Question 25 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked for reassurance that those who worked in GIS areas were sufficiently supported.

Cllr Kathy Williams explained that for those people working at GIS it was important to give them the right to be independent. Following a HR investigation, improvements would be made and an offer had been made to the member to make a visit and speak to the people involved.

Question 28 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked the Leader about how he was going to ensure there was appropriate experience in the Media Team.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that there were new people coming in, but the resilience came from the breadth of skills in the team and across the organisation.

Question 32 – Cllr Eva Ward referred to the Council's leadership role within the county with regards to carbon emissions. She asked if the Cabinet Member believed the Council could substantially raise its ambitions across the county.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he did believe this and referred to a report that would be received by Cabinet in December.

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Question 37 - Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether any assessment had taken place as to how far proposals within the 'Looking to Future Strategy' would impact on carbon emissions.

Cllr Nigel Moor referred the member to the report which would be part of the Cabinet papers in December.

Question 39 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked what proportion of the overall highways budget was forecast for cycling infrastructure.

Cllr Vernon Smith offered to meet with the member to discuss in more detail.

Question 40 – Cllr Joe Harris stated that parking was a huge issue and there was a need for solutions. He suggested that the County had now waited long enough for a parking review.

Cllr Dave Norman explained that he had emailed the member previously with an offer to meet him and the appropriate officers to discuss further and that he had not got back to him. He stated that the offer was still open.

Question 41 – Cllr Joe Harris asked whether the County Council supported the changes to the market place scheme in Cirencester. He stated that the town council was ready to progress this.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that he was happy to talk to Cirencester Town Council.

Question 44 – Cllr Joe Harris referred to facilities at Paternoster School, including the damp portacabins. He asked if the Cabinet Member would work with him and the school to find a solution.

Cllr Lynden Stowe explained that the school was becoming an Academy and would have greater responsibility around this, but that he was happy to work with the Member and governors at the school.

Question 45 – Cllr Brian Oosthuysen asked that when Leadership Gloucestershire considers proposals around Vision 2050 would they consider the role of scrutiny as part of their work?

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Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that he thought the draft Concordat included a timetable for reviewing all county wide structure and scrutiny functions. This was due to go back to Leadership Gloucestershire in the new year.

Question 46 – Cllr Colin Hay noted the reply to his question adding that the effect on a child of exclusion was devastating. Primary school exclusions Pupil Referral Units did a great job, but the increase in exclusions was worrying.

Cllr Richard Boyles agreed with the member and stated that he worked with schools to highlight the issues.

## **75. CHAIR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

***RESOLVED** that Cllr Kevin Cromwell be elected as the Chair of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*

## **76. SCRUTINY REPORT**

In presenting the report, Cllr Patrick Molyneux advised that the scrutiny review was progressing well with two workshops, facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, already held.

A member expressed concern that the scrutiny report related to meetings held in September and did not reflect the content of the meetings held during the last two weeks. He was also dismayed that there appeared to be ground rules for the scrutiny review set by the Cabinet. He believed that good scrutiny resulted in better decision making. The focus should be on getting scrutiny right at the Council uninhibited by constraints set by the Executive.

Cllr Molyneux said that the review would take a pragmatic approach in looking at how scrutiny could be reformed to meet the needs of non-executive members.

Cllr Roger Wilson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, informed members that the activities of the board would be subject to scrutiny by the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **77. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chair of the Constitution Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 15 October 2018.

**RESOLVED** *that the changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer relating to the Employee Code of Conduct and changes to the Cabinet be ratified.*

## **78. CABINET DECISION STATEMENT**

Referring to the proposed parking operational services contract, Cllr Joe Harris asked for confirmation that the County Council was severing links with the District Councils to get a better on-street parking enforcement. He was concerned that enforcement was more focused in the car parks in towns like Cirencester.

Cllr Jeremy Hilton expressed concern at the fast staff turnover and lack of parking officers in Gloucester.

Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, undertook to speak to the relevant officers and respond to each member after the meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

- a) *That up to £275,000 is allocated from the A417 Missing Link Reserve to fund the outline business case for M5 Junction 10, should the County Council fail to obtain funding from the Homes England bid.*
- b) *To note the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 10 October 2018.*

## **79. CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS**

**RESOLVED** *to note the Cabinet Member Decision Statements for the period 1 September to 31 October 2018.*

## **80. GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Chair of the Pensions Committee, presented the annual report. He provided detailed information on the fund including membership, value, return on investments, funding level and the new pooling arrangements through the

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Brunel Pension Partnership. He was pleased that the Pension Fund had been given a clean bill of health by the auditors.

***RESOLVED*** to approve the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund Annual Report 2017-18.

The meeting ended at 2.30pm

**CHAIRMAN**