



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 23 March 2022 TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Quayside House, Shire Hall, Gloucester GL1 2TZ

Present

Membership:

Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin	Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr David Norman MBE
Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Rebecca Halifax	Cllr Sajid Patel
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Alan Preest (Chair)
Cllr Paul Baker	Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Philip Robinson
Cllr John Bloxsom	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Alastair Chambers	Cllr Stephen Hirst (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Lisa Spivey
Cllr Cate Cody	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Linda Cohen	Cllr Nick Housden	Cllr Wendy Thomas
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Beki Hoyland	Cllr Pam Tracey
Cllr David Drew	Cllr Mark Mackenzie-Charrington	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Ben Evans	Cllr Chris McFarling	Cllr Chloe Turner
Cllr Stephan Fifield	Cllr Dr Andrew Miller	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Andrew Gravells MBE	Cllr Gill Moseley	Cllr Susan Williams
Cllr David Gray	Cllr Emma Nelson	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Jeremy Hilton		Cllr Dr David Willingham

Apologies: Bill Crowther (Honorary Alderman), Cllr Alex Hegenbarth, Cllr Dominic Morris, Gordon Shurmer (Honorary Alderman) and Cllr Roger Whyborn

63. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Emma Nelson declared an interest in Motion 893.

65. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Ukraine

The Chair thanked members for their efforts in supporting appeals for items for the Ukrainian people displaced as a result of the invasion by Russia. Food,

clothing and other items from people in Gloucestershire have already reached Poland and been transported into western areas of Ukraine.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the Ukrainian people who have been killed, injured and displaced. The Ukrainian flag was flying over Shire Hall and would continue to be flown over coming days and weeks.

- b) National Day of Reflection
Wednesday 23 March 2022 marked the second National Day of Reflection: a day for remembering those we have sadly lost due to Covid-19. There was a national one minute's silence at 12 noon and the Chair advised that he would find a suitable time for members to stand in silence.
- c) The Armed Forces Community Covenant
The Council's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Andrew Gravells, organised a virtual meeting on 16 March 2022 which was attended by representatives from a wide range of organisations including District Councils, Parish and Town Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS bodies. Representatives from the three main military bases in the county, Imjin Barracks, Beachley Barracks and the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, were present at the meeting. The updated Covenant reinforced the intention to support people living in the county who were serving or had served in the Armed Forces.
- d) Levelling-up Conference
The conference would be held on 19 May 2022 and all members had received email invitations.
- e) Microsoft 365 roll-out for members
Members were encouraged to make an appointment to bring their iPads into Shire Hall between Monday 28 March and Friday 8 April 2022 to have them swapped over to Microsoft 365.
- f) Annual member survey
Members were requested to complete the questionnaire and return them to Democratic Services.
- g) ICT
The Chair paid tribute staff from ICT, in particular John Deane and his team, for coming into Shire Hall late in the evening on the day before the meeting to ensure that a wifi connection was available for members.

66. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Sixteen public questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Alan Bailey asked that what plans were in place for sustainable transport on the A46?

Cllr David Gray replied that road safety and active travel were an areas the Council was heavily focused on. He appreciated the efforts being made to bring forward any issues on individual places. The Council would be holding a forum on active travel.

Question 2 – Alan Bailey asked whether any thought had been given to adding sustainable transport on the A46 to the Joint Core Strategy.

Cllr David Gray replied that the Council looked at all aspects of this and would hope to see more plans brought forward across the County to encourage people to turn away from car usage towards active travel.

Question 3 – David Redgewell stated that, his concerns were on how the County Council would manage the process to maintain the bus services beyond October without funding from the Department for Transport. He gave the example of the Village of Dymock which had one bus a week. He stated that the County Council really needed to focus on buses and asked what was the Council's recovery plan if the government grant tapered off?

Cllr Philip Robinson replied that there was some tapering around the bus recovery grant and the Council still awaited clarity from the government on that. It was made clear that what the DfT was trying to do was maintain funding for the sector but also allow for a commercial model to return. He referred to the bus service improvement plan and the enhanced bus partnership plan.

Question 4 – David Redgewell asked that the County Council maintain the finance on concessionary passes.

Cllr Philip Robinson replied that, as stated in his written answer, concessionary payments had been maintained and that this was being reviewed.

67. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, presented the corporate parenting report. He advised that the Council was still awaiting the final report on the Ofsted inspection. He thanked all the staff who worked so hard in the lead up to and during the inspection. He encouraged members to complete their profiles setting out the opportunities they could support for children in care. The next corporate parenting meeting was on 24 March 2022. There continued to be challenges in the system with some notable areas of improvement but there remained issues where improvements were required.

A member asked about DBS checks for members. He believed that all county councillors should be DBS checked as they could come into contact with vulnerable children during their case work.

Cllr Davies said that any members who wished to be DBS checked could be but it was not a legal requirement.

Answering further questions, he said that he was not aware of any unaccompanied children coming to the county from Ukraine but he assured members that appropriate support would be provided should they do so. He confirmed that more than 40% of care experienced young people were not in employment or education and steps were being taken to address this. In answer to a question about the instability of long-term placements, he explained that there had been a significant fall in the number of Foster Carers through the Covid pandemic and this had a particular impact. He stated that locations for the family hubs had not yet been agreed and an engagement exercise was being undertaken with families. In terms of work placements, the Council had a number of care experienced young people on work placements and steps were being taken to increase the number.

68. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented by members.

69. MOTIONS

Motion 895 – Ukraine

Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed and Cllrs Paul Hodgkinson, John Bloxsom and Cate Cody seconded this cross-party motion included on the agenda.

For all Group Leaders, this motion represented the Council standing united against the horrific and illegal invasion of Ukraine, against the human suffering and humanitarian crisis unfolding and against this attack on democracy and freedom.

The Leader categorised the county's response into three areas. He emphasised the importance of a political response with Members adding their voice to the chorus of outrage against Putin's regime. The Council had also followed suit with economic sanctions on Russian related investments. He detailed the Council's humanitarian response in making sure GCC did everything it could to coordinate, collect and distribute aid. Members were extremely proud of the response from residents in this effort also. Finally, he details the support for refugees. The county had a proud track record for helping resettle refugees, and teams across Gloucestershire would continue to offer a safe haven for those fleeing conflict. Cllr Hawthorne ended with the words, "We are all Ukrainian".

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson spoke on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. He thanked the other political groups for supporting this cross-party motion and offering a united

voice from the Council. He paid tribute to the inspiring leadership in Ukraine in the face of the atrocities that everyone had all watched unfold over the past 4 weeks. He also praised the community's response in Gloucestershire on aid and offers of homes for refugees. On behalf of the group, he also welcomed the recent removal of 'red tape' from the Government's resettlement plans, enabling an easier transition for those coming the country and county in months to come. Cllr Hodgkinson ended with the words, "We stand with Ukraine".

Cllr John Bloxsom spoke on behalf of the Labour Group. They too welcomed and thanked other groups for the cross-party voice, condemning the military aggression and standing with the people of Ukraine, for democracy and their right to choose European identity should they wish. He welcomed the economic sanctions against Russia to date but called for these to go further and become broad enough to impact every aspect of their economy. He praised the courage of Russian citizens taking to the streets in protest against the illegal invasion, whilst under threat themselves of oppression. He stressed the need for 'wrap around services' to be available for refugees settling in Gloucestershire, and to ensure that GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) was enabled to remain resilient and viable, not becoming overwhelmed.

Cllr Cate Cody spoke on behalf of the Green Group and echoed all comments that had been made so far, describing the war in Ukraine as 'catastrophic' and a complete and utter waste, of human life (both soldiers and civilians), but also environmentally. She went on to cite the carbon waste of weapons, transport, medical supplies etc., the destruction and rebuilding of homes schools, roads and hospitals. She stated that the group recognised the mindless physical, emotional, and psychological pain that war brought and noted that it was time for everyone to look hard at their politics, to consider whether our governments were trading with immoral leaders and dictatorship regimes, and to ask how we could reduce our demand for oil which Putin benefited so massively from. She welcomed that the Government had confirmed that single-occupied households would not lose their council tax discount if they offered their homes to refugees. She ended with a plea that the world did not forget about Afghan refugees who were still in dire need of our support.

Cllr Chambers had recently joined a convoy to the Polish boarder which had included over 20 lorries filled with 160 tonnes of aid from all over Gloucestershire. The county had been identified as the quickest area in the country by the Government to organise and move aid for the humanitarian effort. The councillor saw first-hand the life changing difference every donation had made to Ukrainians.

The Cabinet Member responsible for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service highlighted that the Service had donated surplus vehicles/equipment to support rescue efforts and protect fire fighters in Ukraine. This included an aerial ladder platform that had given 20 years of service to Gloucestershire. GFRS employees on and off duty had also helped sorting and loading lorries with aid.

Several members commended the bravery of the Ukrainian people, civilians, and military, in defending their country. They recognised that the challenges to come of

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resettling refugees in the county would be different to those faced before, but again commended residents who had already come forward to offer refuge in their homes. It was also reinforced that Gloucestershire had not forgotten about the support needed for refugees that had recently come from Syria and Afghanistan either.

The Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills recognised that schools would play a vital role in the response effort. Gloucestershire had a proud record for supporting refugees into the education service. It already had well-established practises which provided support to families with school applications, and schools had been very supportive and flexible. There was already a regular migrant settlement meeting which coordinated the work of all relevant organisations in the county and was now acting as the key communication hub for Ukrainian refugees.

A member suggested that the Council could write a letter to the Ukrainian ambassador to show solidarity and also a letter of support to John Major and Gordon Brown for their suggestion for a Nuremberg-style trial for Russian officials.

Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery, had been appointed as the council's lead for the refugee response effort. There would be a reliance on members to link into their communities, making sure refugees were being looked after and supporting host families in the short/long term. Members would be provided with regular updates.

The Leader, as proposer of the motion, summarised the discussion by stating that the strongest message we could send now was to continue our actions in supporting Ukraine at all levels. Our efforts would remain united, our message strong and our support unwavering to see down this illegal invasion and attack on democracy. He reminded members that we needed to do our bit to ensure there was a free Ukraine to which its residents could return home (should they wish) and protect their right to choose their own future.

On being put to the vote, the Council unanimously supported the motion as published on the agenda.

Motion 893 - Policing and anti-social behaviour

Cllr Emma Nelson left the room for this debate having made a declaration of interest in it.

Cllr Jeremy Hilton proposed and Cllr David Brown seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Hilton highlighted that GCC used to be the Police Authority before Government introduced the Police and Crime Commissioner model which aimed to improve democracy and the police service. Unfortunately, statistics showed that things had not got better since this model was introduced. He stated in July 2021 there were 26,000 cases of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in a 12-month period; between 2009-18 the number of uniformed police officers dropped by 299 officers; and government grants had seen a £8m decrease since 2010. He acknowledged that

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under the previous Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) these statistics had begun to improve and for example, to date Gloucestershire was 156 officers short of the level in 2009.

Looking at the new PCC (Chris Nelson) who was elected last May, Cllr Hilton outlined that he had made 6 manifesto pledges, 1 of which was to see a reduction in ASB by 50% and another to increase police numbers (Officers or Community Support Officers) by 300. He stated however, that recent statements made by the PCC had suggested he would only be able to increase full-time police by 106 in his term. This motion therefore called for the PCC to come and address the council and enable members to hold him to account for his manifesto pledges.

Cllr Brown seconding the motion stated that the focus and intention of the motion was to support the excellent work of front-line officers who were under tremendous pressure. He also acknowledged and appreciated Gloucestershire's Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and welcomed the passion the PCC showed recently in wanting to see the Watch membership grow.

He highlighted that a similar motion had been brought to the council four years ago. The aim then was to increase front-line resource in the police to help reduce crime. Unfortunately, the same objective remained today and it was important to make sure that a promise made by the PCC was a promise kept. Recent comments by the PCC suggested that his aim was now to employ an additional 102 officers and 4 PCSOs. This represented a 65% reduction in his ambition which, Cllr Brown said, was very disappointing for the county. This motion gave the PCC a public platform to share details on how he planned to meet the manifesto pledges on which he was elected.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed the following amendment:

This Council believes that improved police patrols, especially on foot, by Gloucestershire Constabulary would help reduce the incidence of petty crime and anti-social behaviour.

This Council notes that Chris Nelson, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), committed in his manifesto to cut anti-social behaviour in our communities by 50% and to deploy an additional 300 ~~police officers~~ pairs of boots on the ground during this term in office.

This Council notes ~~however, with some concern,~~ that the PCC's recently announced budget paper will ~~only~~ see 102 additional officers employed during this term as well as 200 Special Constables, 178 police staff, 12 new Police Community Support Officers and 30 volunteer PCSOs, a new role championed by the Commissioner.

This totals at least 340 extra pairs of boots on the ground in our county providing a visible policing presence and tackling the issues that matter to our residents like anti-social behaviour.

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There will also be more than 170 extra specialist police staff cutting waiting times on our 101 number and improving the support for victims of crime and supporting the front line.

This council therefore:

- invites the PCC to provide a public presentation to the County Council on how he intends to deliver on his commitment to halve anti-social behaviour in Gloucestershire over the next two years and ~~explain why his manifesto commitment on officer numbers has been cut by nearly two thirds.~~*
- calls on the new PCC to deliver on all of his manifesto pledges by the end of his current term in office.*

The meeting was adjourned to allow members to consider the amendment and resumed at 12:00.

Cllr Hawthorne introduced his amendment. He stated that the opposition had, for the previous 8 years, supported a failing and inadequate service run by the previous PCC and last May, the voters of Gloucestershire overwhelmingly backed change. Voters backed a PCC that wanted to see more policing on our streets, to address chronic underfunding of the service and to reduce waiting times for non-emergency calls made to the 101 number. He stressed that he needed to put the record straight today; the PCC was delivering on his manifesto promises, real investment was happening for the county and that's why members should back the amendment.

Cllr Norman spoke as the seconder of the amendment. He explained that he had direct experience of working with the PCC and his team to address ASB issues in his division, and that the PCC would welcome any member of council to approach him for the same support. It was noted that the PCC was active in wanting to work in partnership across the county, such as recent collaborative work on improving road safety. He added that the PCC budget recently been supported unanimously by Gloucestershire's Police and Crime Panel.

Several members spoke against the amendment. They thought the changed wording of "340 extra pairs of boots on the ground" was disingenuous and misleading, that the PCC had been elected on a manifesto pledge of 300 additional officers, and that members of the public expected exactly that. A member acknowledged that there were some useful additions in the amendment, particularly the reference to volunteer PSCOs.

They added that the PCC should be held accountable for the manifesto pledges on which he was elected. The offer of addressing a full council meeting allowed the PCC a chance to outline to the public how he expected to deliver these, and for members to act as a critical friend.

Several members also spoke in support of the amendment. They stressed that the PCC was a hardworking and committed individual who took his promises on election very seriously. He was someone who would go above and beyond to make

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sure he delivered change for Gloucestershire. Many gave examples of their experiences working with the PCC on ASB in their area, evidencing he was committed to tackling these issues. They added that the amendment still kept the request for the PCC to address members but also set the record straight on his commitments.

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

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

It was RESOLVED that

This Council believes that improved police patrols, especially on foot, by Gloucestershire Constabulary would help reduce the incidence of petty crime and anti-social behaviour.

This Council notes that Chris Nelson, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), committed in his manifesto to cut anti-social behaviour in our communities by 50% and to deploy an additional 300 pairs of boots on the ground during this term in office.

This Council notes, that the PCC's recently announced budget paper will see 102 additional officers employed during this term as well as 200 Special Constables, 178 police staff, 12 new Police Community Support Officers and 30 volunteer PCSOs, a new role championed by the Commissioner.

This totals at least 340 extra pairs of boots on the ground in our county providing a visible policing presence and tackling the issues that matter to our residents like anti-social behaviour.

There will also be more than 170 extra specialist police staff cutting waiting times on our 101 number and improving the support for victims of crime and supporting the front line.

This council therefore:

- invites the PCC to provide a public presentation to the County Council on how he intends to deliver on his commitment to halve anti-social behaviour in Gloucestershire over the next two years.*
- calls on the new PCC to deliver on all of his manifesto pledges by the end of his current term in office.*

70. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Thirty-eight member questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked

Question 1 – Cllr Steve Robinson asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that transporting children that distance to go to school did not sit well with the agreed climate change actions and asked the cabinet member if he would consider

schooling the children in Nailsworth and sourcing funding from prospective developers to extend the school.

Cllr Philip Robinson replied that he understood it was disappointing for any parent when their child did not get a place at their first preference. The admission authority's responsibility was to ensure sufficient school places. Any extension of schools would have an impact on nearby schools. The forecasting data showed a fall in pupil numbers in future years. For that reason there were currently no plans to increase capacity.

Question 2 – Cllr Steve Robinson stated he was pleased that the windows were going to be fitted.

Question 3 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked why the Covid board had been disbanded alongside the stopping of the weekly figures. In addition, the Government was charging for tests from 1 April. He asked whether the leader would like to disassociate himself from that Government decision.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that he did not wish to do that and detailed the journey taken over the previous two years citing vaccination and effective treatments to allow us to reach a stage to live with Covid-19. The Council would work closely with the NHS. He felt it was the right time to take those steps. Many of the staff that had been deployed in this area were now deployed in supporting Ukrainian refugees.

Question 4 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that hospitalisations with Covid-19 were high and that tests were being charged for. He asked, would the cabinet member like to ensure the supply of free Covid tests in the way Portsmouth had done.

Cllr Tim Harman replied that limited free testing for people with symptoms would still be available and he did not anticipate following the example of Portsmouth.

Question 5 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked, whether the Cabinet Member could give some examples of actions he was taking to protect vulnerable residents.

Cllr Tim Harman replied that the public health team worked in partnership to provide support. A fourth round of jabs had been made available for those over 75 or vulnerable.

Question 6 – Cllr Rebecca Halifax asked for a diplomatic solution to the situation at Cirencester Abbey Grounds and asked to meet with the Cabinet Member.

Cllr David Gray replied that he appreciated the need for a sensible solution and to help Cirencester get the permissions needed and he would be happy to discuss this with the member on site.

Question 7 - Cllr Rebecca Halifax stated that referrals regarding eating disorders had gone up 500% and stated that a phone service would not be sufficient. She asked how much of that 280k would come back into that service

Cllr Tim Harman replied that he understood the issue and would provide details of the figures involved.

Question 8 – Cllr Linda Cohen stated that it was important to understand how the Council would link smaller areas, such as Wotton Under Edge, to the rest of the cycle spine.

Cllr David Gray stated that the spine was not the only focus but also places like Wotton under Edge, with the aim to allow everyone in the county to have access to active travel. The longer term vision was to join these places up.

Question 11 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked if feedback would be sought from cyclists on the 'cycle spine'?

Cllr David Gray replied that anyone who wanted to make a contribution could provide feedback. The consultation was a dynamic one that was keen to capture as many voices as possible to ensure the scheme met the needs of residents.

Question 12 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked why no financial information had been given in the consultation process for Stroud library and asked if the absence of the information made the process flawed.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that he would discuss that with the officers and provide an answer to the member.

Question 14 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked what say the public would have on future usage of the building.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that discussions were underway to discuss options.

Question 16 – Cllr John Bloxsom asked whether the Cabinet Member accepted that bidders should be given information on the condition of the former Stonehouse library property.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that bidders might have different uses in mind and therefore the work that was needed would depend on the use. He welcomed the community putting in bids. Due diligence would be carried out.

Question 17 – Cllr John Bloxsom stated that bidders had been told that they hadn't been allowed a copy of the survey as it was out of date. He asked would it not be reasonable to share the information with interested parties?

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that the advice provided was that the figure could not be relied on and bidders needed to make their own assessment as to what the cost of work would be according to how they wished to use the building.

Question 19 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked for details of how the 'missing link' along the Llanthony Road scheme would connect with the city centre cycle network. He felt that it would improve the road junction linking to the Gloucester City football club

ground. The club wanted to put signage up and had asked whether temporary signs would be put up during construction and then permanent signage thereafter?

Cllr David Gray replied that he would take those points away.

Question 20 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked would more money be available to continue the concrete roads renewal programme?

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that the programme had specific funds but all of the network was considered for ongoing maintenance. He would continue to lobby for government funding.

Question 24 – Cllr John Bloxsom read a note regarding county deals from Stroud District Council and asked if it was accurate.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that the report was incorrect. There had been a debate on the white paper at Leadership Gloucestershire. He believed there were some officers that argued for consideration of a level 3 deal which would require a directly elected mayor, but this was not something welcomed by Members. He felt that starting with a 'blank piece of paper' would lead to things taking too long. A document was being produced that summarised what had been done so far and would act as a starting point.

Question 27 – Cllr Wendy Thomas asked if the Leader was aware of the CCN report in March suggesting an underestimation of the costs of adult social care and she asked was this something that was being considered.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that what the LGA and CCN were doing was to try to quantify the scheme at this stage. Assumptions had been made by Government and the Treasury. The sector would come up with the evidence base on the cost of implementing the policy. This would be shared with Government officials to shape the final package.

Question 28 – Cllr David Willingham asked about the promotion of the Flare App and suggested it damaged the reputation of the council. He asked should the Council have done their due diligence in checking the app and he expressed his concern on its effects on women's safety?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated that these questions should be raised with the police. The county council had supported their partner in promoting the app. He felt that the questions were not a good use of Council's time.

Question 29 – Cllr David Willingham asked whether sufficient resources were available for inspection before utility works had been finalised on Cheltenham highway.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that interim works had 6 months to carry out the work under the law and that the resources were available for inspections.

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Question 30 – Cllr Roger Whyborn asked if the cabinet member was working on a plan B should the results of the evaluation on Schools Streets lead to it not being viewed as viable going forward.

Cllr David Gray replied that this would be data led. The Council would await the outcome and would look at a wide range of options.

Question 32 – Cllr David Willingham asked the Council to explore providing mental health first aid training if possible.

Cllr Tim Harman replied that everything would be under review.

71. SCRUTINY REPORTS

Cllr Phil Awford, Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the report that highlighted recent scrutiny activities. He advised that the Restoring Our Rivers Task Group was nearing completion and he thanked members from across the political groups for participating in the review. In the absence of Cllr Dom Morris, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, he congratulated Cllr Chris McFarling, the vice-chair of the committee, for how well he had run the meeting on 9 March 2022.

Cllr Awford and Cllr McFarling both thanked Sophie Benfield, Democratic Services Officer, for her work in supporting the Restoring Our Rivers Task Group and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

A member asked whether the Health Scrutiny Committee would be receiving a report on the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of the hospitals which included reference to delays in discharging patients which it linked to a lack of capacity in care homes. He also asked whether the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee would be receiving a report on the proposed closure of particular care homes in the county which was the subject of a Cabinet report on 30 March 2022.

Cllr Andrew Gravells, Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, noted that the CQC report had only just been published and confirmed that the committee would receive a report on the findings at a future meeting. He thanked Jo Moore, Senior Democratic Services Officer, and Becky Parish at the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group for the support that they provided to committee members.

Cllr Stephen Hirst, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee, advised that the proposed closure of four care homes would be going out for wider community consultation, and when completed, scrutiny committee members would be receiving a report. He also thanked Jo Moore and Becky Parish for their support.

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72. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chair of the Appointments Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 11 March 2022.

*Council **RESOLVED** that the revised Pay Policy Statement 2022-23 attached to the report be adopted.*

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 14:30.