



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 10.00 am

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Chair's Opening of Council

“May we find wisdom to carry out our duties, humanity to listen to all, the courage to do what is right and the generosity to treat each other with respect.”

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| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE |
| 2 | MINUTES (Pages 1 - 24) |
| 3 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Please see Note (b) at the end of the agenda. |
| 4 | ANNOUNCEMENTS Please see the briefing note, which does not accompany this agenda but will be circulated prior to the meeting. |

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

To answer any written public questions about matters which are within the powers and duties of the County Council.

The closing date for receipt of questions was 10am on Monday, 30 October 2023. However, questions that relate to reports on the agenda may be submitted up to 10am on Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

Please send questions to the Chief Executive marked for the attention of Stephen Bace (email stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Questions received and proposed responses do not accompany this agenda but will be circulated prior to the meeting.

6 CORPORATE PARENTING (Pages 25 - 32)

7 PETITIONS

8 MOTIONS (Pages 33 - 40)

Motion 930: Notice of Motion – Free Bus Travel for Gloucestershire Veterans and Service Personnel

Proposed: Cllr Cate Cody

Seconded: Cllr Chris McFarling

November is the month of remembrance; This Council seeks to do more than provide tacit support for Veterans and Service Personnel in our County by taking steps to make a positive difference to their lives in recognition of their service.

Accordingly, this council calls on the Cabinet member to bring forward proposals for consideration as part of the 2024/25 draft budget process to provide a free bus pass to all Veterans and Service Personnel living within Gloucestershire, (based on the principles of the existing scheme for pensioners in the County, i.e. free travel on production of a valid identity card)

Motion 931: Train Ticket pricing structure

Proposed: Cllr Alan Preest

Seconded: Cllr David Gray



The cost of a rail Adult return day ticket from Lydney to Gloucester currently costs £11.60. (Chepstow-Gloucester £13.20).

One price fits all, there are no off-peak concessions.

Travelling by train is more than a journey, it is and should be the ready-made solution to make our roads quieter and safer and improve the air quality. Rail is an environmentally friendly way to travel and plays a critical role in helping to tackle climate change.

Council resolves to write to the Transport for Wales overarching Authority, the Welsh Government, to ask them to explain their regulatory pricing structure particularly for the Chepstow -Lydney-Gloucester journeys and consider an overall fare reduction, but at the very least the creation of a more realistic off-peak day return fare, in anticipation of the potential economic benefits, tourism benefits and climate change.

Motion 932: Sustainable Catering and Procurement Policy

Proposed: Cllr Beki Hoyland

Seconded: Cllr Chloe Turner

Council notes:

We are experiencing climate breakdown, an obesity epidemic and a cost-of-living crisis. As a council we have declared a climate emergency, have council targets to reduce obesity, and have a multi-agency ongoing response to the cost-of-living crisis.

What we eat, and how that food is produced, affects our health, the environment and our local economy .

The British food system contributes about 30% to global greenhouse gas emissions – more than transport or energy - and industrial farming is the leading cause of the decline of wildlife in the UK, antibiotic resistance and zoonotic diseases. Additionally, a third of the food we produce goes to waste. About a third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is linked to food.
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-021-00225-9/>

The quality of our diets follows a social gradient, with those in poorer households consuming less fruit and vegetables and more ultra-processed food and drink produced by multinational industries. Many people struggle to afford diets that align with government minimum recommendations for a healthy and balanced diet. What we eat has become the biggest risk factor for preventable disease, taking a massive toll on our health, causing debilitating illness, and placing an unsustainable strain on the NHS.

Ensuring that procurement policies support and encourage local production will help create and maintain local jobs through the supply chains as well as grow the local economy.

Council acknowledges:

- Changing what we eat and where it comes from has the potential to benefit both the health of people and the planet.
- Locally produced food has the potential to support the wider local economy.
- Gloucestershire County Council is a key partner in Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership whose purpose, among others, is to create innovative approaches to



transform the food and farming system through initiatives that deliver multiple health, environmental and economic outcomes.

- Gloucestershire is a member of Sustainable Food Places that celebrates the success of those places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.

The council resolves to:

- Produce a policy for catering and procurement for council events to ensure the food served is healthy and sustainable, committing to:
- Locally produced and seasonal food
- Increased plant based options
- better quality meat, served less frequently
- Nutritious and balanced options in line with the governments Eatwell Guide
- Work closely with Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership and Sustainable Food places
- Use reusable and recyclable packaging and utensils

Consider ensuring that all suppliers are signed up to:

Food For Life served here <https://www.foodforlife.org.uk>

Food for the Planet <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/faqs/>

Motion 933: Policing in Gloucestershire

Proposed: Cllr Jeremy Hilton

Seconded: Cllr Ben Evans

Council Notes

1. Gloucestershire Police was until very recently, in special measures, after His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found them to be inadequate in six areas
2. Whilst improvements have been made since the very sobering report was published, the HMICFRS noted that their response to domestic abuse incidents, behavioural crimes and Anti Social Behaviour were 'of particular concern'
3. In the year 22/23, Gloucestershire Police had the worst response times to Category Two 999 incidents of any force in England or Wales, averaging 16.7 hours to respond against a target of 5.5 hours, with response times in Gloucester peaking at 23.9 hours
4. 101 response times also continue to cause concern to Gloucestershire's residents with many saying they are waiting up to 40 minutes to report a crime, and the online system not working
5. Despite the promise by the PCC, Chris Nelson to provide 300 new officers, Gloucestershire Constabulary is still woefully under-staffed, putting huge pressure on existing officers and resulting in residents being vulnerable to crime

Council Believes

1. Gloucestershire residents deserve a swift and professional response service whenever they dial 999
2. Problems with the force and with the call centre are undermining public confidence in the Police locally
3. The current Police and Crime Commissioner ran on a central pledge to recruit more frontline Police Officers, and has now reneged on that solemn pledge

Council Resolves

1. To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire and the Chief Constable for Gloucestershire Police, calling for an urgent meeting to discuss policing in Gloucestershire with all District Council Leaders and County Council Group Leaders, that he himself chairs
2. To ask the Cabinet Member for Public Health to look into what the Council and its partners can do to work with Gloucestershire Police on improving their response to incidents of domestic violence.
3. To ask the Police and Crime panel to consider at their next meeting what can be done to improve the response time to category 2 999 calls and 101 reporting in Gloucestershire, with the Chair of the panel reporting back to Full Council on their findings.
4. To continue to put pressure on the PCC to deliver on his promise of 300 new officers

Motion 934: Protection of Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons

Proposed: Cllr Chloe Turner

Seconder: Cllr John Bloxsom

Council is distressed to hear of the death of cattle on the Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons during the recent grazing season and of the continuous risk of death and injury from vehicle strikes posed to around 450 cows and horses.

Council is aware that these deaths threaten the sustainability of grazing and hence the future of the commons which are internationally important areas rich in flora and fauna. We acknowledge that the Commons are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), both lie within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Rodborough Common has additional designation as a Special Area of Conservation.

We note that each year several cows are killed, the majority at certain points on the road and in the dark in autumn and that, in a finely balanced ecosystem, free-grazing cattle and horses play a critical role in biodiversity and sustainability of the commons. We commend the work of commoners, graziers, Natural England, National Trust and others in seeking to protect and



conserve the commons.

Council acknowledges that it has legal duties to have regard to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB, to take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and that it is a competent authority with a duty to help protect, conserve and restore a Special Area of Conservation.

Furthermore, under the new provisions of the Environment Act 2021, and as the Lead Authority in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Gloucestershire County Council has a clear leadership role in preserving our natural habitats, of which our SSSIs and SACs are the most precious. Not taking remedial action, such that the graziers are forced to remove their animals and the Commons quickly degrade as a result, would be a clear abdication of these responsibilities.

Measures taken by the County Council as the highway authority have regrettably not proven to be adequate to protect cattle and horses from death and injury, the burden of which is carried by farmers exercising their registered grazing rights. Council believes that to reduce this suffering, and sustain the nature of the commons, further road safety measures should be taken.

Council therefore resolves to recommend to Cabinet that it establish a Task and Finish Group which it recommends should include the Divisional members for Minchinhampton, Nailsworth and Rodborough and the Cabinet Member for Highways, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning and the Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Safety to address this situation, including additional road safety measures, and report back with recommendations to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

9 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for this item.

To answer any written member questions about matters which are within the powers and duties of the County Council.

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Cabinet Member Decision statements for the period 5 September 2023 to 31 October 2023 can be found at:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?XXR=0&&DR=05%2f09%2f2023->



[31%2f10%2f2023&ACT=Find&RP=0&K=0&V=0&DM=3&HD=0&DS=2&Next=true&NOW=30102023105411&META=mgdelegateddecisions](#)

10 SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 41 - 44)

11 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 45 - 54)

Cllr John Bloxson to present the annual report which was considered at the committee meeting in July 2023.

12 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 85 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a member of a local authority to attend at least one meeting of that authority within a six month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a councillor. This requirement can be waived if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the authority, in advance of the six month period expiring.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council is recommended to pass the following resolution in relation to the following item:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Council is asked to approve the continuing absence of a County Councillor.

RECORDING MEETINGS, INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL

QUERIES – Please note that full Council meetings are webcast and may be viewed on the Council’s website (www.gloucestershire.gov.uk). If you wish to inspect reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact:

Stephen Bace, Head of Democratic Services

☎ 01452 324204, email stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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