



COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, 25 March 2015 **TIME: 10am**

VENUE: Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present

Cllr Phil Awford (Chairman)	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Dorcas Binns	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Barry Kirby	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Tony Blackburn	Cllr Richard Leppington	Cllr Mike Sztymiak
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Sarah Lunnon	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Jason Bullingham	Cllr Steve Lydon	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Steve McHale	Cllr Pam Tracey
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Paul McLain	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Paul McMahon	Cllr Stan Waddington
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Tracy Millard	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Jasminder Gill	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Bill Whelan
Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Graham Morgan (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Lesley Williams
Cllr Mark Hawthorne	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Tony Hicks	Cllr Nigel Robbins	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive

Honorary Aldermen

Barry Dare Bill Hobman

Apologies: Honorary Aldermen Ron Allen, Liz Boait, Paul Drake, Jackie Hall, Deryck Nash, Terry Parker, John Sewell, Gordon Shurmer and Mike Williams.

Councillors Colin Guyton, Joe Harris, Brian Oosthuysen, David Prince and Klara Sudbury.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting and Ordinary Meeting both held on 18 February 2015 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Robert Smith

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to former councillor, Robert Smith, who had passed away on 26 February 2015, aged 90. 'Bob' had been a County Councillor from 1993 to 2001 representing the Bourton and Stow Division.

Cllr Lynden Stowe paid tribute to Bob, noting that he was also a longstanding member of Cotswold District Council and had been made an Honorary Alderman following his retirement from the council. He said that Bob was an early supporter of the A417 Missing Link and he was pleased that real progress was now being made with local authorities, politicians and other public agencies working together.

b) Councillors Brian Calway and David Penman

The Chairman reported that Councillors Brian Calway and David Penman, Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, would not be standing at the district elections in May 2015. The Chairman thanked them both for their service to the Panel and its forerunner, the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee.

c) Joint appointment

The Chairman advised that Jon McGinty had been appointed to the joint position of Managing Director at Gloucester City Council and Commissioning Director at the County Council.

d) Building Better Lives

The Chairman encouraged members to visit the displays by social enterprises on the Council Chamber landing during the lunch break.

19. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One public question had been received. A copy of the answer was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 –Mr Waddell asked:

- a) Did the full public consultation mentioned in the answer include members of the local blind and partially sighted community?
- b) Does the council consider a zebra style crossing sufficient when recent development in other areas are using the more modern pedestrian controlled crossing, which the National Federation of the Blind and the Guide Dogs Council for the Blind considered the minimum standard for blind and partially sighted pedestrians.
- c) Can the council assure us that an audit trail is mandated for all decisions involving public safety in the future?

In response Cllr Vernon Smith explained that he would provide Mr Waddell with a written response to the questions outlined above. In addition he offered to meet with him to 'walk the area' and understand his specific concerns.

20. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented.

21. CORPORATE PARENTING

Answering questions, the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People and Strategic Commissioning recognised that there were a number of challenges around contact arrangements for children in care with their families. He hoped that the work of the scrutiny task group on the recruitment and retention of children's social workers would help to address concerns regarding contact.

RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People and Strategic Commissioning be noted.

22. MOTIONS

At the Council briefing, indicative times for each motion had been agreed taking account of the overall time limit of 2 hours for motions allowed in the constitution.

Motion 739 – 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Richard Leppington proposed and Cllr Alan Preest seconded the following motion:

June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta . This is an event of international and national importance.

Councils throughout the land are using this as an opportunity to reflect on civic life, and engage young people about how Magna Carta gave rise to the freedoms which they enjoy today.

We urge Gloucestershire County Council to organise a suitable commemoration of the event.

In moving the motion, Cllr Richard Leppington said that 15 June 2015 would mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta by King John at Runnymede. He stated that the democratic legitimacy of the County Council, Parliament and other local authorities had their roots in the Magna Carta. He noted that the fundamental principles of the British legal system could be traced back to the Magna Carta. These included the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, the right to trial by jury and no imprisonment without charge. Today the legal system in Britain was widely recognised as the fairest and best in the World. He believed that the Magna Carta was worth celebrating and it was important that young people were aware of its relevance to today's legal system and democracy.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Alan Preest noted that the anniversary would fall on the same day as Beer Day Britain and would provide an opportunity for a double celebration. He echoed the words of Cllr Leppington and noted the importance of celebrating the liberties enjoyed by people in Britain today.

Other members spoke in support of the motion and recognised the role of the Magna Carta in social justice, freedom of speech and creating a civilised democracy. The principles of the Magna Carta provided the foundation for treaties throughout the world including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the US Constitution.

Members noted that the Library Service already had a scheme in place to promote the Magna Carta which was aimed primarily at young people. They hoped that further opportunities would be taken to celebrate the anniversary and promote tourism in the county.

The following resolution received unanimous support:

RESOLVED

To note that June 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. This is an event of international and national importance.

To note that councils throughout the land are using this as an opportunity to reflect on civic life, and engage young people about how Magna Carta gave rise to the freedoms which they enjoy today.

To urge the County Council to organise a suitable commemoration of the event.

Motion 740 - Climate Change

Cllr Sarah Lunnon proposed and Cllr Mike Sztymiak seconded the following motion:

This motion recognises the adaptation and mitigation work undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in response to climate change risks. The findings of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that there are opportunities to substantially and significantly increase the transformation of our carbon intensive economy. Local investment now will bring substantial future savings and opportunities that benefit local economies.

In light of the above, this Council resolves to form and enact policy to develop the 'low carbon economy' that reduces greenhouse gas emissions according to AR5 recommended targets. Actions will include:

- i) Effective adaptation to climate change in the local transport plan, in waste management, in flood management and in energy use.*
- ii) Support and investment in employment by promoting innovation and investments in environmentally sound technologies and infrastructure that enable sustainable livelihoods and low-carbon behavioural and lifestyle choices.*
- iii) A further promotion of long-term sustainability and conservation to enhance biodiversity and special habitats, whilst also enabling responses in the viability of new and innovative types of agriculture and local energy and food production.*

The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear, warming is unequivocal and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history.*

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

- *Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change would require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.*
- *Adaptation and mitigation are complementary strategies for reducing and managing the risks of climate change. Substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term, and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development.*
- *Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales, and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link adaptation and mitigation with other societal objectives.*

In moving the motion, Cllr Sarah Lunnon highlighted the worldwide impact of climate change with severe weather events and threats to international security, and also very local impacts such as the need to redraw the boundaries of flood plains in the Stroud district area. She noted that the Ministry of Defence viewed climate change as a major threat to national security. She said that climate change was the issue of our time and it was vitally important that people understood the threat and started working to find solutions. She believed that steps should be taken to develop the low carbon economy in Gloucestershire to provide people with more sustainable jobs and reduce emissions. She noted that although the Government talked about addressing climate change, the Infrastructure Bill went counter to that and would result in even greater use of hydrocarbons.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Mike Sztymiak stated that steps needed to be taken now to mitigate against the effects of climate change. He was pleased to see the Council was introducing LED street lighting but he believed that more needed to be done. He said that it need not be a big financial burden on the Council, but policies could be promoted to develop the low carbon economy through private sector investment.

Cllr Jeremy Hilton proposed and Cllr Lesley Williams seconded an amendment to add the following words at the end of the motion:

In light of the above, this Council requests that a cross-party task group be set up in June and for a report to be brought back to Council by the end of the year. The remit being to look at the conclusions of the Fifth Assessment Report and ways in

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which action can be taken locally to address climate change and develop the 'low carbon economy'.

Members supported the amended motion, noting that a scrutiny task group would allow members to look at what the Council had achieved so far and then consider what further steps could be taken. The focus of the task group's work would be on the practicalities of what could be achieved by the Council. It was recognised that little could be achieved by getting involved in the national debate on climate change.

RESOLVED to recognise the adaptation and mitigation work undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in response to climate change risks. The findings of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that there are opportunities to substantially and significantly increase the transformation of our carbon intensive economy. Local investment now will bring substantial future savings and opportunities that benefit local economies.

In light of the above, this Council resolves to form and enact policy to develop the 'low carbon economy' that reduces greenhouse gas emissions according to AR5 recommended targets. Actions will include:

- i) Effective adaptation to climate change in the local transport plan, in waste management, in flood management and in energy use.*
- ii) Support and investment in employment by promoting innovation and investments in environmentally sound technologies and infrastructure that enable sustainable livelihoods and low-carbon behavioural and lifestyle choices.*
- iii) A further promotion of long-term sustainability and conservation to enhance biodiversity and special habitats, whilst also enabling responses in the viability of new and innovative types of agriculture and local energy and food production.*

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- Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change would require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.*

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- *Adaptation and mitigation are complementary strategies for reducing and managing the risks of climate change. Substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term, and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development.*

Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales, and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link adaptation and mitigation with other societal objectives.

In light of the above, this Council requests that a cross-party task group be set up in June and for a report to be brought back to Council by the end of the year. The remit being to look at the conclusions of the Fifth Assessment Report and ways in which action can be taken locally to address climate change and develop the 'low carbon economy'.

Motion 741 – Highways

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson proposed and Cllr Bernard Fisher seconded the following motion:

This Council notes that the current highways contract with Amey has been in place to deliver services from 1 April 2014.

This Council is disappointed that Amey's performance over the course of the year has fallen short of its target and has more often than not been worse than tolerance.

This Council is aware that with all new contracts there is a settling-in period, but after nearly twelve months of operating, this Council will no longer accept system changes and resource issues as a reason for performance falling below the given target.

This Council therefore requires this highways contract with Amey to be closely monitored through the already established cross-party Highways Advisory Group and to see financial penalties imposed if performance targets are not consistently achieved in 2015/2016.

In moving the motion, Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that the condition of the roads was the issue that was raised most often on the doorstep. He said that there were

examples from across the county of poor performance and workmanship. There had been delays in completing work and communication was often poor. He believed that targets needed to be rigorously monitored quarter by quarter and if performance did not improve then the Council should start withholding funds.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Bernard Fisher referred to the appalling condition of the pavements as well as the roads around Cheltenham. He said that he had tried to get issues sorted out in his division but in many instances no action had been taken. He said that repairs were often 'cheap, rushed and poor'.

Cllr Vernon Smith, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, supported the motion. The new contract was very different to previous contracts and he said that in overall terms the condition of the county's roads was improving. He accepted that there had been some problems with communication and the Contract Governance Board had made Amey aware of those concerns. He said that Amey were now hitting performance targets with a number of indicators ahead of target. He recognised, however, that there were still issues to be addressed and he assured members that action would be taken. He noted that Amey had put in place a dedicated email for county councillors and he encouraged members to use it to report issues. If members could not resolve problems then he suggested that they approach him directly.

Some members stated that they were seeing an improvement in the condition of roads in their area and they were pleased at the quality of the work undertaken by Amey. They commended the Cabinet Member for the action he was taking to address the concerns that had been raised regarding the contract.

Other members stated that the condition of roads was not improving and they expressed serious concern regarding the Council's contract with Amey. A member believed that the contract had not been set up properly and the Council should learn lessons for other contracts it was entering into with third parties. Another member called for a thorough review of Amey's working practices and not just the imposition of financial penalties.

The following specific concerns were identified by members:

- Lack of consistency of repairs with poor quality workmanship in filling potholes.
- Poor quality of resurfacing on the A38 south of Gloucester
- A bush growing out of a road in Wotton-under-Edge
- Poor communication with elected members, parish councils and the public with no feedback provided on progress on when action would be taken and when work had been completed.

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

- Pavements falling apart in Cheltenham
- Lack of inspection after pothole repairs had been undertaken
- Obscured road signs
- No action taken for weeks after reporting noisy inspection covers on a main road in Gloucester.
- Tree cut down in Cheltenham even though it was subject to a tree preservation order.
- Lack of action when members requested specific work to be undertaken as part of the Highways Local Scheme.

RESOLVED that this Council notes that the current highways contract with Amey has been in place to deliver services from 1 April 2014.

This Council is disappointed that Amey's performance over the course of the year has fallen short of its target and has more often than not been worse than tolerance.

This Council is aware that with all new contracts there is a settling-in period, but after nearly twelve months of operating, this Council will no longer accept system changes and resource issues as a reason for performance falling below the given target.

This Council therefore requires this highways contract with Amey to be closely monitored through the already established cross-party Highways Advisory Group and to see financial penalties imposed if performance targets are not consistently achieved in 2015/2016.

Motion 742 - Children's Safeguarding Board

The following motion proposed by Cllr Joe Harris and seconded by Cllr Jeremy Hilton was withdrawn:

This Council commends the work of the Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Board, but recognises that the membership of the Board is determined by Government statute as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2013) and thus fails to allocate a place or places for locally elected councillors as full members of the Board.

This omission means that councillors and in particular the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People and Strategic Commissioning are not able to take full responsibility for keeping children safe in Gloucestershire.

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This Council believes that councillors are held by the public to be ultimately responsible if there are significant failures in the safeguarding process and that it is wrong for councillors to be asked to undertake this role whilst not being provided with full membership on the key body responsible, namely: Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Board. Giving full membership rights would: -

- reassure the public that all decisions made by the Board have been subject to the full challenge of locally elected representatives;*
- allow local councillors the opportunity to fully influence decisions being made via democratic means;*
- improve the Board's deliberations and decisions;*
- deliver greater transparency and accountability for the public.*

This Council therefore resolves that the Leader of this Council and the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families to amend the statutory guidance to enable full participation by elected councillors in the work of the Children's Safeguarding Boards.

Motion 743 – Living Wage for people working on behalf of the Council and the use of zero hours contracts

Cllr Lesley Williams proposed and Cllr Steve Lydon seconded the following motion:

This Council notes that 65% of its services are delivered by private and voluntary sector organisations.

This Council notes that many private and voluntary sector employees working on behalf of the County Council are paid less than the Living Wage.

This Council is concerned that employees who provide essential services to Gloucestershire residents, such as care workers, are receiving poor pay and poor terms and conditions for the important service they provide. As a Council we believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that in work poverty is not experienced by anyone employed to work on behalf of GCC.

Therefore this Council requests that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee undertakes a review of the pay, terms and conditions that employees working on behalf of the County Council receive and assess the merits and costs of paying all low paid employees working on behalf of GCC the Living Wage. The review will also investigate the use of zero contract hours by Council contractors and it will establish whether or not the practice of black listing members of Trade Unions occurs in Gloucestershire.

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

In moving the motion, Cllr Lesley Williams said that she was proud that lower paid staff employed by the Council received a living wage supplement. She was concerned, however, that a large number of people employed by Council contractors did not receive a living wage. Some of these people were employed on zero hours contracts. She explained that a scrutiny review would cover all types of contracts and not just those relating to the care sector. It would allow members to understand the motivation of contractors in paying such poor rates to their staff.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Steve Lydon believed that it was important to make jobs in the care sector more sustainable to allow a clear career path to be established. Once the scrutiny review had been completed, a series of recommendations could be made to the Cabinet on the best way forward.

Members spoke in support of the motion and felt that it was only right that people received a 'fair day's pay for a fair day's work'. They believed that paying the living wage helped to ensure that services were provided to the standard expected by the Council. They questioned how any argument could be made against paying the living wage.

Other members recognised that some people chose to work on zero hours contracts as it suited their lifestyles. They also noted that the Council needed to be mindful of the financial implications of a blanket introduction of a living wage supplement for contractors.

RESOLVED that this Council notes that 65% of its services are delivered by private and voluntary sector organisations.

This Council notes that many private and voluntary sector employees working on behalf of the County Council are paid less than the Living Wage.

This Council is concerned that employees who provide essential services to Gloucestershire residents, such as care workers, are receiving poor pay and poor terms and conditions for the important service they provide. As a Council we believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that in work poverty is not experienced by anyone employed to work on behalf of GCC.

Therefore this Council requests that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee undertakes a review of the pay, terms and conditions that employees working on behalf of the County Council receive and assess the merits and costs of paying all low paid employees working on behalf of GCC the Living Wage. The review will also investigate the use of zero contract hours by Council contractors and it will establish whether or not the practice of black listing members of Trade Unions occurs in Gloucestershire.

Motion 744 – A417 Missing Link

Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed and Cllr Lesley Williams seconded the following motion:

This Council notes that the A417 Missing Link remains one of the worst bottlenecks on Gloucestershire's roads, and a continuing cause of serious accidents.

This Council further notes the repeated cross party support from this Council, and from councils across Gloucestershire to addressing this issue.

This Council welcomes the recent commitment from the Department for Transport, but also recognises that there will be much work to do to see the upgrade delivered – and the county's representatives in Westminster will have a crucial role to play in that.

As such, this Council resolves to write to all candidates standing in Gloucestershire at the forthcoming General Election, giving them an opportunity to state their support for this crucial scheme, and to publish responses received.

In moving the motion, Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated that he was anxious to keep the momentum up for the A417 Missing Link. Politicians from across the county had already indicated their support for the scheme and it was important that parliamentary candidates were aware of the strength of feeling. He said that everyone needed to work together to address the ecological issues in order to make progress with the scheme at the earliest opportunity following the General Election.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Lesley Williams recognised the importance of everyone continuing to work together to address the A417 Missing Link. The road was a serious traffic bottleneck and there had been a number of serious road accidents.

A member noted the success of the cross party campaign. He said that the Highways Agency had confirmed that all the options were still on the table and would need to be consulted upon. Another member supported writing to the parliamentary candidates but questioned how reasonable it was for the Council to publish the responses received.

Some members believed that it would take some time to get the scheme underway as there were still a number of issues to address.

Other members were anxious that steps were taken to overcome the difficulties and move the scheme forward at the earliest opportunity.

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RESOLVED that this Council notes that the A417 Missing Link remains one of the worst bottlenecks on Gloucestershire's roads, and a continuing cause of serious accidents.

This Council further notes the repeated cross party support from this Council, and from councils across Gloucestershire to addressing this issue.

This Council welcomes the recent commitment from the Department for Transport, but also recognises that there will be much work to do to see the upgrade delivered – and the county's representatives in Westminster will have a crucial role to play in that.

As such, this Council resolves to write to all candidates standing in Gloucestershire at the forthcoming General Election, giving them an opportunity to state their support for this crucial scheme, and to publish responses received.

23. MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson explained that members in Cheltenham were not having the local member face to face meetings with Local Highways Managers and that this arrangement was sporadic in other areas. He asked if the Cabinet Member would ensure that Local Highways Managers emailed local members to arrange meetings for the next two years.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that he was happy to talk to officers and emphasised the importance of a close relationship between highways managers and the local member. He encouraged members to call their local highways manager and be proactive in arranging meetings. Where meetings were not happening in areas, he was happy to take the matter forward with officers on behalf of individual members.

Question 2 – Cllr Bernard Fisher asked whether the answer provided to his question did take into account the last 12 calendar months and how it compared to the previous three years.

Cllr Vernon Smith informed the member that the figure reflected the time period of the contract from 1 April 2014. He explained that there was a regular rota for the

cleaning of gullies and that the same contractor from the previous 5 years had been used. He felt progress had been made after a slow start.

Question 3 – Cllr Iain Dobie asked for clarification over the favourable terms referred to in the answer in relation to the bidder. He asked whether this included green spaces or was purely in financial terms.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that the development on the land was a Cheltenham Borough Council matter.

Question 4 - Cllr Nigel Robbins asked for proper independent review of the Amey Highways Contract, brought into the public domain looking at the quality of the work and value for money.

In response, Cllr Vernon Smith stated that he believed that the employment on a temporary basis of an ex Network Manager and previous Divisional Surveyor to assist in managing the backlog of work showed a willingness to take action. He felt that the Governance Board was sufficient to monitor performance and ensure value for money.

Question 5 – Cllr Bernard Fisher asked that if there was a surplus in the highways budget for 2014/15 that this be put into the next budget or provide for an increase in 'Highways Local'.

Cllr Vernon Smith provided details of the need for 'slippage' to be built into the contract of around 10% for the first quarter to take into account the impact of outside factors such as the weather. This would be a matter for the Advisory Board to consider.

Question 6 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked for clarification as to whether the member had read the un-redacted contract between Gloucestershire County Council and Urbaser Balfour Beatty from beginning to end.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated that he had read the contract and spoken to officers to ensure his understanding. He indicated that 95% of the contract was available online for members to read through themselves.

Question 7 - Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked for clarification as to whether the member had read the un-redacted contract between Gloucestershire County Council and Urbaser Balfour Beatty from beginning to end.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou stated that it was not the role of every member to read every contract in full but that he had read this contract.

Question 8 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether the £0.95 million contract for short breaks to assist people to maintain their caring role would be likely to increase.

Cllr Dorcas Binns stated that she would like to applaud the work of carers and that the council was working closely with Carers Gloucestershire and Guideposts to assess whether this should increase.

Question 9 - Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether the electronic call monitoring would only be within the learning disability service areas, or whether it would be rolled out further.

Cllr Dorcas Binns agreed that electronic call monitoring was the way forward and explained that after the trial the intention was to roll this out more widely across adults services.

Question 10 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether a detailed report performance in relation to foster placements, both temporary and permanent, could be provided to Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Paul McLain explained the challenge to find permanent foster placements for young people with high risk behaviours and stated that he was happy for a report to be provided to scrutiny.

Question 15 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether more resources were needed in Mental Health Services and what was being done to secure them.

Cllr Kathy Williams explained that work was being undertaken with NHS partners around the budget recovery plan and that there were a number of actions being taken forward as detailed within the answer provided. She hoped that additional government funding might be made available.

Question 30 – Cllr Barry Kirby referred to the County Council's responsibility in relation to Section 106. He asked what issues the MP had discussed with the Cabinet Member in relation to the Kingsway GP Surgery.

Cllr Andrew Gravells thanked the MP Richard Graham for his support with regards to Abbeydale Surgery and explained that the MP had spoken to him in relation to Kingsway, having had discussions with NHS England.

Question 33 – Cllr Barry Kirby asked whether the member had fed back to the Fire Minister the legal advice detailed in the answer for Firefighters falling short of fitness standards when approaching retirement age.

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Cllr Will Windsor-Clive replied that legal advice had been taken and the Fire Minister had been informed to that affect.

Question 34 – Cllr Barry Kirby asked what the timescale was for the replacement of the new equipment for the Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr Will Windsor-Clive stated that the timescale was for 2017/18.

Question 35 – Cllr Barry Kirby asked when the work would be completed in relation to the keep clear road markings on the A38 southern connector, stating that this had been ongoing since September 2014.

Cllr Vernon Smith apologised for the delay. He asked the member to share his correspondence with him on this matter and that he would follow this up on behalf of the member.

Question 38 – Cllr Barry Kirby explained that bus providers seemed to be changing routes and questioned why members appeared to be the last to know.

Cllr Will Windsor-Clive replied that he agreed that there had been confusion and that changes had not been communicated in the way he would have liked.

Question 41 – Cllr Tracy Millard asked for further details of the concerns that had been raised in relation to Chapel House Care Centre.

Cllr Dorcas Binns said that as the information was confidential, she agreed to meet with the member to discuss the issues.

Question 42 – Cllr Tracy Millard asked if her meeting with the Cabinet Member could also include what robust monitoring measures were taking place.

Cllr Dorcas Binns agreed that this would be included within the meeting.

Question 43 – Cllr Tracy Millard asked whether children felt confident in raising concerns.

Cllr Paul McLain stated that this question was a good challenge and that he would raise it with the Council's Young Ambassadors. He felt that there was a need to spread awareness of the opportunities available for children to raise concerns.

Question 51 – Cllr Paul McMahon explained that in September 2014 the road safety liaison group for the Forest of Dean had been set up. He inquired why a meeting

had been set up following the previous council meeting including drawing up terms of reference for another group when there was already a group in existence.

In response, Cllr Will Windsor-Clive recognised that a group had been established, but that there had been a recent agreement to provide financial and officer support for the group.

Question 52 – Cllr Chris Coleman asked what communication the cabinet member entered into with each of the district councils with regards to trees on roads.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that Gloucestershire County Council works with districts with regards to trees, with regular inspections, and that he would speak to the member regarding his concerns.

Question 53 – Cllr Chris Coleman asked whether the work had been carried out in relation to the tree stump on the Promenade in Cheltenham and, if it had not, why not.

Cllr Vernon Smith explained that the removal of the tree stump was a complicated procedure which required specialist contractors and that he had been advised by officers that it would be removed as soon as was possible.

24. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chairman of the Appointments Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 3 March 2015 including the recommendation on the Pay Policy Statement for 2015-16.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2015-16 be adopted.

25. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Adult Safeguarding

Following the full Council meeting on 26 November 2014, the wording of the recommendation to Council regarding adult safeguarding had been revised and shared with the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. No objections had been raised to the revised wording which was as follows:

- *That Councillors are required to champion the wellbeing of their constituents and raise awareness of adult safeguarding.*

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- *That they play their part in working with communities to assist with the prevention of abuse to keep vulnerable adults safe from harm.*
- *That they have a duty to report a concern should they become aware of individual cases of abuse through their work with constituents.*
- *That the Council recognises the need to respect confidentiality and data protection issues; and asks the Cabinet to ensure there is a policy in place that enables local members to be informed about issues of serious concern within their divisions.*
- *That training or briefing sessions are held with district colleagues at varied venues across the County on Safeguarding.*

Members noted the wording of the recommendation had been the subject of detailed discussion and they believed that it should now be adopted without further amendment.

Other members, whilst supporting the intent of the recommendation, believed that it needed more work. They suggested that a member group should be established to ensure that appropriate training and resources were in put in place. A training pack should be developed so that members who joined the Council at a by-election or at the next election in 2017 were aware of their responsibilities.

There was concern that the order of the recommendation was wrong and some changes were suggested to emphasis the importance of training. A member called for the Cabinet to consult with all members before putting in place a policy to allow local members to be informed about issues of serious concern within their divisions.

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillors are required to champion the wellbeing of their constituents and raise awareness of adult safeguarding.*
- b) They play their part in working with communities to assist with the prevention of abuse to keep vulnerable adults safe from harm.*
- c) They have a duty to report a concern should they become aware of individual cases of abuse through their work with constituents.*
- d) The Council recognises the need to respect confidentiality and data protection issues; and asks the Cabinet to ensure there is a policy in place*

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that enables local members to be informed about issues of serious concern within their divisions.

- e) That training or briefing sessions are held with district colleagues at varied venues across the County on Safeguarding.*

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chairman of the committee, Cllr Colin Hay, reported that the committee had last met on 18 March 2015, the same day as the Economic Growth Joint Committee. This had allowed the members of the scrutiny committee to look at the same issues and the same approach would be followed for future meetings. A strong message had been sent to Cllr Mark Hawthorne, the Chairman of the Economic Growth Joint Committee, about the importance of pursuing action around devolution as otherwise Gloucestershire was in danger of falling behind other areas.

Following the Council motion on community pubs, a paper had been presented at the scrutiny committee but members felt that a more detailed study was required. It was hoped that a scrutiny task group could be established to undertake a broader study which covered the impact on local communities as well as economic issues. This would also provide an opportunity to involve district councillors.

26. INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS

***RESOLVED** to note the Individual Cabinet Member Decision Statements for the period 2 to 27 February 2015.*

27. LOCAL PENSION BOARD OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND

Cllr Will Windsor-Clive, Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, presented the report relating to the establishment of a Local Pension Board for the Gloucestershire Firefighters' Pension Fund. The terms of reference broadly reflected those already adopted by the Council for the Pension Board for the Local Government Pension Scheme. He thanked officers for the work that they had undertaken to put a scheme in place at short notice to meet the 1 April 2015 deadline by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

A member expressed concern that, under the new Firefighters' Pension Scheme, firefighters who lost fitness through no fault of their own, could be forced to retire on a reduced pension. He stated that it might prove difficult to redeploy firefighters into other roles as there were very few suitable opportunities available.

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

Cllr Windsor-Clive stated that this was covered in the new legislation and it would be up to the Council to assess individuals on a case by case basis.

RESOLVED to

- a) *Establish the Local Pension Board of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme with the terms of reference indicated in the report.*
- b) *Authorise the Chief Fire Officer to put in place the detailed arrangements for the Local Pension Board following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure and the Monitoring Officer.*

CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at 2.15pm