



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# **COUNCIL** **AGENDA**

**Wednesday 20th December 2017, 10.00 a.m.**

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**Council Chamber, Trinity Road, Cirencester**

## NOTES

### (i) Questions Arising on the Agenda

If any Member has any questions regarding either (a) an update/progress report on a specific item contained in the Minutes of the previous Meeting or (b) a report contained within the Agenda, he/she is requested to give advance notice of such question to the Director/Officer originating the report or to an Officer of the Democratic Services Section so that a full response can be made available either prior to, or at, the Meeting. If no such advance notification is given, a full response to any question cannot be guaranteed at the Meeting.

With specific regard to the Minutes of previous Meetings, Members' attention is drawn to Council Procedure Rule 17.1 which provides that, once the Minutes have been signed, Members may ask questions to ascertain what progress has been made on a particular matter referred to in the Minutes, but may not make any other statement or generate discussion on the Minutes.

### (ii) Mobile Phones/Pagers

All mobile phones/pagers should be **SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT MODE BEFORE** the start of the Meeting.

### (iii) Recording of Proceedings

The public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings may be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know before the start of the Meeting.

Recording/filming should not be disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the Meeting. To assist with this, an area of the Meeting venue will be designated from which proceedings can be recorded/filmed, and 'roaming' around the venue while recording is not permitted. The Chairman will exclude anyone whose behaviour is disruptive.

Recording/filming should only be of Members and Council Officers, and not any members of the public (unless they are formally addressing the Meeting or unless specific permission has been given by those individuals).

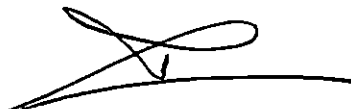
For further information, please read the Notices displayed inside and outside the Meeting venue and/or speak with the Committee Administrator.

### (iv) Committee Administrator

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Ben Amor on 01285 623236 who will be the Committee Administrator responsible for the Meeting.

### Distribution:

All Members of the Council



**Nigel Adams**

Head of Democratic Services

12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

# COUNCIL : 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017

## AGENDA

(1) **Apologies**

(2) **Declarations of Interest**

(a) To receive any declarations of interest from Members under:-

(i) the Code of Conduct for Members; and/or

(ii) Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (any Councillor who has Council Tax payments remaining unpaid for at least two months must declare an interest and not participate in any matter affecting the level of Council tax or arrangements for administering the Council Tax).

(b) To receive any declarations of interest from Officers under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

(3) **Minutes** - To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (attached).

(4) **Announcements from the Chairman, Leader or Head of Paid Service**

(5) **Public Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

(6) **Member Questions**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

The following questions have been submitted:-

(1) **From Councillor Jenny Hincks to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council**

'Next April, the Department for Works and Pensions is withdrawing help to residents to help pay mortgage interest or housing costs and replacing it with a loan.

This will affect the most vulnerable of our residents.

What is CDC doing to help mitigate the effect these new rules are having on people who need help?'

(2) From Councillor NP Robbins to Councillor Sue Coakley, Cabinet Member for Environment

'Cheltenham Borough Council has recently introduced the kerbside collection of textiles, batteries and small electrical items.

We set up and share Ubico with Cheltenham so why hasn't Cotswold District Council introduced this service and does the administration plan for introducing it soon?'

(3) From Councillor NP Robbins to Councillor Sue Coakley, Cabinet Member for Environment

'Has Ubico noticed an increase in the collection of Tetra Pak cartons since the closure of the recycling centre at Kingsmeadow Tesco?'

(4) From Councillor Dilys Neill to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'The Leader will be aware that an application for another care home in Stow was recently permitted by this authority.

The Leader will also be aware that Geoffrey Clifton-Brown recently told BBC Radio Gloucestershire that CDC need to do more affordable housing in Stow.

What plans does the administration have for delivering affordable housing in Stow?'

(5) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'The Leader will no doubt have seen the Social Mobility Commission's State of Nation report which ranked Cotswold District poorly in terms of general social mobility and the second worse in England in terms of social mobility for young people.

What plans does the Leader have to address this critical issue?'

(6) Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Conservative MP for the Cotswolds, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, on BBC Radio Gloucestershire recently criticised Cotswold District Council saying 'the authority needs to 'get on with' implementing a Local Plan'.

He also said that current CDC policy could lead the Cotswolds to 'fossilise and die'.

Does the Leader agree with the MP?'

(7) From Councillor AR Brassington to Councillor C Hancock, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships

'Does the Council still have a purchasing policy? If not, why not; and will it produce an environmentally-friendly one? If it has one, when was it last reviewed?'

Note:

The above questions were submitted by the time by responses are guaranteed to be provided to the questioner at least 24 hours before the Council Meeting (by virtue of the Council's Procedure Rules). As such, written responses will be provided to all Members either in advance of, or at, the Council Meeting.

(7) **Petitions (if any)**

## **Other Matters**

(8) **Issues/Reports Arising from the Cabinet (if any)**

(9) **Issues/Reports Arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit (if any)**

(10) **Notice of Motions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motions have been received:-

(i) **Motion 11/2017 re Funding for Gloucestershire Constabulary**

Proposed by Councillor M Harris, seconded by Councillor AR Brassington:

*'Council notes that Gloucestershire receives £85.30 per head of population from the main central grant. The national average is £104.50 per head of population. This means the lack of central government funding has to be met through local council tax precept which does not provide for inflationary pressures such as pay rises and inflation. £30m has been cut from Gloucestershire Constabulary in the past seven years and there are 250 fewer officers.'*

*In the light of the spate of rural crime in the Cotswolds recently, this Council resolves to write to Nick Hurd MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, asking him to support the Police and Crime Commissioner's request for central funding commensurate with the national average.'*

(ii) **Motion 12/2017 re the National Police Federation's 'Believe in Blue' Campaign**

Proposed by Councillor M Harris, seconded by Councillor AR Brassington:

*'This council resolves to support the National Police Federation's 'Believe in Blue' campaign to show our support for the dedicated men and women in blue who work tirelessly to keep us safe.'*

The following Motion was held over from the Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017:-

**Motion 7/2017 re Lowering the Voting Age**

Proposed by Councillor Jenny Forde, seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton:

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

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

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

*This Council therefore requests the Leader of this Council to write to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds asking that a letter be written to county representatives of the Youth Parliament to express support in lowering the voting age to 16.'*

**Note:**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, any Motion that is duly proposed and seconded shall automatically stand referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee for consideration, unless the Chairman of the Council considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business for the Motion to be dealt with at the Meeting. Members will be advised of the views of the Chairman on this aspect as soon as possible.

**(11) Decision Taken by the Head of Paid Service**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 38, the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, Group Leaders, and the relevant Ward Members, decided that the Special Council Meeting then scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to consider further the BDL application would start at 10.00 a.m. (as opposed to the start time of the initial Meeting of 1.00 p.m.).

**(12) Sealing of Documents**

To resolve:

"that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all contracts, conveyances and any other documents necessary for carrying into effect all resolutions passed by the Council."

**Note:**

The Register of Sealing will be available at the Meeting for Members' inspection.

**(END)**

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING  
(HELD AT CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH,  
CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER)

19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

Present:

Councillor Julian Beale	- Chairman
Councillor David Fowles	- Vice-Chairman

Councillors -

SI Andrews	RC Hughes
Mark F Annett	Mrs SL Jepson
AW Berry	RG Keeling
AR Brassington	Juliet Layton
T Cheung	MGE MacKenzie-Charrington
Sue Coakley	Dilys Neill (until 1.15 p.m.)
PCB Coleman	NJW Parsons
Jenny Forde	NP Robbins
JA Harris	Tina Stevenson
M Harris	Lynden Stowe
Maggie Heaven	R Theodoulou
Jenny Hincks	LR Wilkins
SG Hirst	

Apologies:

Alison Coggins	C Hancock
Andrew Doherty	RL Hughes
RW Dutton	SDE Parsons

CL.28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(1) Declarations by Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(2) Declarations by Officers

Mrs. C Gore, Mr. D Neudegg, Mrs. B Patel, Mrs. J Poole and Mr. F Wilson declared interests in Agenda Item (8) (Establishment of Shared Services Company - Publica) and Agenda Item (9) (Council Retained Officer Structure and Delegations as a Consequence of Establishment of Shared Services Company), as they each held designate roles within Publica or were in existing retained Council roles.

Mr. N Adams declared an interest in Agenda Item (9) (Council Retained Officer Structure and Delegations as a Consequence of Establishment of Shared Services Company), because of his proposed changed designation in the event of the Publica transfer proceeding.

**CL.29 MINUTES****RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>st</sup> June 2017 be approved as a correct record;**

**Record of Voting - for 26, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**(b) the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be approved as a correct record.**

**Record of Voting - for 24, against 0, abstentions 3, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.30 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

(i) Former Councillor John George - the Chairman referred to the recent death of former Councillor John George, who had served on the Council from 1976 to 1979 and again from 1995 to 1999, representing the Labour Party. Members and Officers stood in silence in memory of a former colleague and as a mark of respect.

(ii) Filming/Recording of Proceedings - the Chairman referred to the standing notification previously received from a member of the public of the intention to film the Council Meeting; and stated that, accordingly, the Council would make its own audio recording of the proceedings.

(iii) By-Election for the Grumbold's Ash with Avening Ward - the Chairman stated that the Notice of Election was due to be published that day and, if contested, a by-election would be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

(iv) Chesterton Outline Planning Application - the Chairman explained that a date for the subsequent Meeting to determine the Chesterton OPA had yet to be finalised.

(v) Notices of Motion - the Chairman explained that all but the first Notice of Motion would be debated at this Meeting. With regard to the first Notice of Motion, relating to the lowering of the voting age, he stated that in response to a Question in the House last week, the Minister Chris Skidmore reported that the Government had stated in its manifesto a clear commitment to maintain the voting age of 18, and therefore had no plans to lower the voting age in elections. In the circumstances, and with the agreement of the Proposer and Seconder, the Motion would stand deferred to a future Council Meeting so that background information could be provided and for representatives of the County Youth Parliament to be invited to contribute to the debate.

(vi) Councillor RC Hughes - Poppy Appeal - the Chairman stated that Councillor Roly Hughes had some enamel poppy badges for sale at a cost of £3 each, in aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

(vii) Cabinet Meeting - the Chairman reminded Members that the Cabinet was scheduled to meet at the close of this Meeting.

There were no announcements from the Leader or the Head of Paid Service.



**CL.31 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions had been received.

**CL.32 MEMBER QUESTIONS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, questions had been submitted, and responses provided, as follows:-

- (1) From Councillor Jenny Forde to Councillor Julian Beale, Chairman of the Council

'Owing to the nature and strong leader model this Council now operates by many decisions are made in individual cabinet member decision making meetings.

While the minutes of these meetings are available online, most Members don't have time trawl through them.

Would the Chairman of the Council consider including a standing agenda item on future full Council meeting agendas with a breakdown of Cabinet Member decisions?'

Response from Councillor Beale

*'Details of Cabinet Member decisions are already published as a standing item on Cabinet agendas, the papers for which are accessible to all Members. Given that such decisions are executive ones, I feel that reporting back via Cabinet is the most appropriate route, and is also a more timely approach.*

*I would certainly wish to avoid duplication, particularly as such items would purely be for information purposes.'*

Councillor Forde thanked the Chairman for his response, and stated that she understood the need to avoid duplication, but it was in the public interest for the Council to be open and transparent. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Forde asked if it would be best practice to publish the decisions to the whole Council.

In response, Councillor Beale stated that Members already received an abundance of information and that copies of all Cabinet Member decisions were available to all Members. However, he undertook to give some further consideration to the issue.

- (2) From Councillor AR Brassington to Councillor Sue Coakley, Cabinet Member for Environment

'Will the Cabinet Member provide figures of the number of prosecutions taken by CDC over each of the last 7 years in relation to offences under food safety/hygiene legislation?'

Response from Councillor Coakley*'Details are set out below:-*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
2010-11	<i>nil</i>
2011-12	<i>nil</i>
2012-13	<i>nil</i>
2013-14	<i>1</i>
2014-15	<i>1</i>
2015-16	<i>1</i>
2016-17	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>4</i>

Councillor Brassington thanked Councillor Coakley for her answer and, by way of a supplementary question, asked if Councillor Coakley could explain why there had been so few prosecutions, given the Council's aim of being the most efficient Council?

In response, Councillor Coakley stated that the Council was an efficient Council and that it worked with different groups to categorise risks, with those premises at highest risk being visited. Councillor Coakley stated that, in 2016, 301 written warnings had been issued, and that the fact that the Council worked with businesses to address concerns had resulted in successful interactions with only one Improvement Notice and one Violation Notice being served.

(3) From Councillor AR Brassington to Councillor Sue Coakley, Cabinet Member for Environment

'Will the Cabinet Member provide figures of the number of prosecutions taken by CDC over each of the last 7 years in relation to offences under Health and Safety legislation?'

Response from Councillor Coakley*Details are set out below:-*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
2010-11	<i>nil</i>
2011-12	<i>nil</i>
2012-13	<i>1</i>
2013-14	<i>1</i>
2014-15	<i>nil</i>
2015-16	<i>nil</i>
2016-17	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>

Councillor Brassington thanked Councillor Coakley for her answer and, by way of a supplementary question, asked if Councillor Coakley could explain why there had been so few prosecutions, given the Council's aim of being the most efficient Council?

In response, Councillor Coakley explained that the Council's policy was only to take a prosecution in those cases where serious failure had been identified, for example, resulting in injury or death. Councillor Coakley referred to an unsuccessful prosecution in 2016/17, and explained that Officers were considering a Police report on another incident, which could lead to prosecution - a report on that issue would be submitted in due course.

(4) From Councillor Andrew Doherty to Councillor Sue Coakley, Cabinet Member for Environment

'I note with interest Biffa have installed cameras, on a trial basis, to help deal with problems of illegal and inconsiderate driving around refuse lorries in the Forest of Dean area. Do we have any idea of the scale of this problem in the Cotswolds, and are UBICO considering similar steps?'

Response from Councillor Coakley

*'Fitting cameras on waste and recycling collection vehicles is becoming more common as it deters spurious insurance claims, provides evidence of unsafe driving which endangers crews, and enables monitoring of the crews' compliance with policies such as wearing Personal Protective Equipment and replacement of containers.*

*We are unable to quantify the problems with illegal and inconsiderate driving, but it is certainly something the crews do experience.*

*We have been trialling cameras on some of the Ubico fleet in Cotswold and consider they provide a very positive health and safety tool. We will therefore be ensuring that the remainder of the fleet have cameras fitted when the vehicles are replaced in 2019.'*

Note:

As Councillor Doherty was absent from the Meeting, there was no supplementary question.

(5) From Councillor PCB Coleman to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

"One of the welcome features of the Chesterton OPA process was the release into the public domain of the previously confidential viability assessment.

However, this happened at a very late stage. Would the Leader please explain, giving examples, why the viability assessment was originally judged to require being kept secret from the public?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*This matter was addressed at the Special Council Meeting.*

*In summary, a Local Planning Authority (LPA) is entitled to accept documents from an Applicant on a confidential basis; and this usually arises in respect of viability issues concerning affordable housing provision and any Section 106 package.*

*The viability assessment had originally been provided to Members as a confidential document, in accordance with usual and previous practice. However, during the course of discussions with our QC, it became apparent that such practice had been impacted by recent case law and, as the full documents had been provided to Members, then such documents should be released into the public domain. Having advised the Applicant's Agent of this, and with his agreement, the decision was taken to release the documents. The subtlety of the situation was such that, if the documents had not been disclosed in full to Members, and Officers had merely provided a summary of the information within their report together with any advice on the document, then the actual documents would not have been subject to release.*

*Officers are currently reviewing previous practice in the light of the case law highlighted.'*

Councillor Coleman thanked the Leader for his response and stated that the answer he had been seeking was not there. Councillor Coleman explained that he had hoped to be able to establish what the legal reason for treating the information as 'confidential' had been. He considered the release of the information to have been useful to the Applicant and to the public and so contended that case law should not have been necessary to bring it to their attention. By way of a supplementary question, he asked which legal thought had previously justified keeping the information confidential, and what case law had resulted in the change?

Councillor Annett undertook to provide a written response to Councillor Coleman.

(6) From Councillor Jenny Hincks to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

*'How many Cotswold District Council staff are being transferred over to Publica? Please could you supply me with the total figure and a percentage figure of the entire workforce?'*

Response from Councillor Annett

*'The current CDC workforce (excluding casual employees) is 270, and 253 Officers are scheduled to transfer to Publica. This equates to 93.7% of the workforce.'*

Councillor Hincks thanked the Leader for his reply and, by way of a supplementary question, asked if staff transferring had showed concerns about the changes taking place, and what was being done to allay fears?

In response, Councillor Annett stated that recent staff departures were not related to the move to Publica. An analysis had recently been carried out, and the breakdown showed that of the 8-9 staff members who had left recently, the reasons for leaving which had been provided related to betterment, quality of life and changes in circumstances. In addition, recruitment to six current 'planning' vacancies was underway.

- (7) From Councillors Tatyana Cheung and Juliet Layton to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Please can the Leader give an update on progress with respect to Motion 3/2016 regarding the Spine Road?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*'It is clear that the initial response from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) was not considered satisfactory by many and could be regarded as raising more questions than providing answers.*

*However, having regard to GCC's offer of continued engagement to secure a longer term strategy for the area, addressing a wide range of issues, Officers have been in touch with GCC representatives to seek to take the matter forward without further delay. Ideally, this would involve bringing together all affected and/or interested parties - to ensure a holistic, rather than piece-meal, approach - which is in line with the way forward that you have previously advocated and which I support.*

*In the first instance I have asked our Officers to arrange, as a matter of urgency, an initial review/scoping meeting involving yourselves and the County Councillor for the area.'*

Councillor Layton stated that Councillor Cheung and herself had asked regularly for over a year when the proposed joint meeting would take place, and had been told that progress had been delayed because of the additional work being undertaken by Officers. Councillor Layton stated that resurfacing work, which was due to take place in November, would lead to closure of the road, which would have an adverse impact on businesses and result in lorries travelling through the villages. Councillor Layton considered it inefficient to determine safety features which would result in more disruption and cost, and, by way of a supplementary question, asked why the Council had not been monitoring the process, as agreed by the previous Leader to avoid having to bring issues back to the Council.

In response, Councillor Annett stated that the situation should have been monitored, and he undertook to see what he could do.

- (8) From Councillor Jenny Forde to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'At last Council, I put forward a motion support the WASPI women of the Cotswolds and after deferring the item to Cabinet, it was RESOLVED that the Leader of the Council writes to Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, requesting him to raise this matter with the

Government. I have heard nothing further from our MP and would like an update please.'

Response from Councillor Annett

*'Our MP is aware of the feelings of the Council and numerous constituents, and has already raised the matter with Government and various Ministers. The MP continues to monitor progress with the petition on the issue which is now nearing 80,000 signatures. Whilst the Government has issued an initial response, indicating that further concessions will not be forthcoming, the petition remains open until 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018; and at 100,000 signatures the petition will be considered for debate in Parliament. The MP is also willing to raise the matter again in the meantime, should any new evidence and/or information be forthcoming. I am afraid that, at this stage, it is a matter of wait and see; but would encourage people to sign the petition should they wish to try to secure a democratic Parliamentary debate.'*

Councillor Forde thanked the Leader for his response, which she was pleased to hear. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Forde asked if details of the petition could be circulated to all Members.

Councillor Annett undertook to arrange for that to be done.

(9) From Councillor M Harris to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Under the previous CDC Leader, the Lib Dems were told they must be dreaming if they think that Councils investing in building will go any way to solving the housing shortage in this country.

In light of the big announcement by Theresa May, in her 'British Dream' speech at the Conservative Party conference, that an additional £2bn will be made available for affordable housing and, I quote, - "We will encourage councils as well as housing associations to bid for this money and provide certainty over future rent levels. And in those parts of the country where the need is greatest, allow homes to be built for social rent, well below market level. Getting government back into the business of building houses. A new generation of council houses to help fix our broken housing market". - will the Leader set up a cross-party working group to establish how CDC can quickly bid for funds and look at building some of the much needed social rented housing in the District?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*'We are still awaiting full details of the scheme to come through, and our Officers are actively monitoring the situation.*

*We are, however, aware that a number of councils are already exploring different ways of enabling/providing affordable housing, and being able to access Government funding, including setting up housing development companies - private companies limited by shares, where all the shares are held by the local authority, i.e. the company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the local authority - or in the*

*form of a joint venture with another local authority or a private sector developer. While we need to investigate more fully, it might be that the formation of Publica could afford this Council the potential to move on this matter quite quickly should appropriate sites be forthcoming. I would also draw your attention to the action in CDC's Housing Plan of exploring the potential/implications of CDC becoming an investment partner in development. Furthermore, it is worth remembering that the key issue in the Cotswolds relates to the availability of sites, rather than funding.*

*I would not rule out a working party, and am happy for one to be set up in due course, but feel it might be better to secure more detailed information in the first instance.'*

Councillor Harris thanked Councillor Annett for his reply, and stated that references had been made to the Housing Plan and the Council becoming an investment partner. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Harris asked where the references were in the Housing Plan and, if it would be possible to have sight of the May 2017 Housing Land Supply figures.

Councillor Annett undertook to provide a written response to Councillor Harris.

(10) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Can the new Leader advise the Council (given that he didn't serve as Deputy or as a Cabinet Member) what his induction and training programme has been to carry out his role?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*'Thus far, I have preferred to adopt a more practical and pragmatic approach - by way of briefings and hand-over with the former Leader; meetings with Cabinet colleagues; and on-going briefings from senior Officers.*

*Moving forward, I have received details of the range of political leadership development programmes available from the Local Government Association, and am currently assessing what might be of benefit and of value, in both content and financial terms.*

*I am also a firm believer that no one approach fits all, and formal training is but one potential element of learning. In my time as a Councillor, I have actively listened and observed, and learned. I have seen three different Leaders - Councillor Stowe, obviously, plus former Councillor Hodgkinson and yourself as successive Leaders of the Liberal Democrat Group. All have displayed different styles, attributes, attitudes and approaches - some of which I would wholly endorse and seek to embrace; but others which I would not wish to follow.'*

Councillor Harris thanked Councillor Annett for his answer and commented that, while Councillor Annett had been in post for a number of months, he was still trying to work out whether Councillor Annett's style of leadership was

thoughtful or passive. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Harris asked if his style of leadership was to wait and do as little as possible?

In response, Councillor Annett stated that Councillor Harris had asked the same question at the last ordinary Council Meeting, and he queried if Councillor Harris was implying that he was not qualified or trained to carry out the job of Leader of the Council. Councillor Annett referred to a Chairman of a Borough Council he had known some years ago who, having served in World War II, when asked what his qualifications were, had replied that he had what was required. Councillor Annett reminded Councillor Harris that he had been voted in as Leader by the Council and concluded by stating that Councillor Harris would have to wait and see if he was passive.

Councillor Harris stated that he was not questioning Councillor Annett's abilities but wished to know what his plans for the Cotswolds were.

(11) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Why couldn't the Leader of Council show up to the Park Community Group's debate about his administration's Local Plan and its implications for Cirencester?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*My reasons for declining to attend - not 'couldn't show up' - are well documented and well-known to Councillors, including yourself. Indeed, my letter to Mrs. Cobbett was included in the Wilts & Glos Standard, both online and in the 'hard' copy version. I am happy to provide a copy to any Member.*

*My reasons included:-*

- *My Leader role did not have responsibility for the Local Plan - the lead role for this was allocated to a specific Cabinet Member, and the approval of the Submission Draft Local Plan was a 'full' Council decision; and neither did it include the decision to be made on the outline planning application by BDL, which was to be made by the 'full' Council. Furthermore, decisions on land allocations (through a Local Plan) and planning and related applications must not be taken on party-political lines.*
- *As the draft Local Plan has been submitted, I was not able either to respond to queries from members of the public on the draft Plan or to express an opinion on the merits of what is proposed in the draft Plan.*
- *Concerns that certain attendees had been invited based on political allegiance - and, given that the consideration and determination of planning applications must not be on party political lines, I did not wish to be drawn into a political debate which might then stray into the merits of the application.*
- *Concerns over the timing of public meeting, being only three weeks before the Special Council Meeting.*



- *Being mindful that attendance at the open meeting - not just by me but by any Member who intended to take part in the Special Council Meeting - could give rise to possible issues or allegations around pre-determination or bias, or undue lobbying which could lead to an opinion being expressed that might prevent participation at the Special Council Meeting.*

*I am fully aware of the provisions of the Localism Act and other related guidance. I am also mindful of public perception. For my part, I decided to adopt a cautious approach; and I acknowledge that others felt that they were content to seek to participate in such a way that they believed would not lead to any accusation of pre-determination or bias. Ultimately, as with the declaration of interests, the final decision rests with the individual Member.*

*I would also point out that, given my absence and that of the Deputy Leader and any Conservative Group member, I asked Christine Gore, Strategic Director at CDC for all planning and development matters, to attend the public meeting - given that she is the most senior Officer at CDC on such matters and I was sure that she would be more than able to comment on planning matters of a technical nature (which proved to be the case).'*

Councillor Harris stated that he had attended the debate on a 'without prejudice' basis, and that he understood Councillor Annett's reasons for not attending. He commented that people often needed to do things which they might be uncomfortable with and that, as Leader, Councillor Annett had taken on the Conservative administration's record to date. By way of a supplementary question, he asked if Councillor Annett would commit to attend every public debate and/or hustings before the 2019 elections or send someone to defend the administration's record.

In reply, Councillor Annett explained that he had made a judgement based on the advice he had received, and he reiterated that he had sent a letter of explanation which had been published in the Wilts and Glos Standard. Councillor Annett expressed his view that Councillor Harris was trying to score political points, and he concluded by stating that he was not interested in that.

(12) From Councillor R Theodoulou to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

*'A number of residents in my Ward have raised serious concerns about the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in our rural areas and market towns. At the same time, residents complain that there is scant Police activity and presence, particularly at weekends which might deter criminality in these areas. Does the Leader agree with me that Policing in the rural areas is woefully inadequate?'*

Response from Councillor Annett

*'I met with the Police and Crime Commissioner recently, and raised the issue of rural policing with him in the light of your question. However, as a stronger starting point, I would welcome any specific*

*cases/examples that have been raised with you, or indeed any other Council Member, and I will pass these on for comment.'*

Councillor Theodoulou thanked the Leader for his response, and welcomed his engagement with the Police and Crime Commissioner. He stated that the point of his question had been to ascertain what the Policing policy was in a rural area and if the Commissioner could justify such policies which required resources. Councillor Theodoulou referred to the increasing frequency of thefts in rural areas and, by way of a supplementary question, asked if the Leader would go back to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask him what his policies and priorities were for rural areas.

In reply, Councillor Annett stated that he did not disagree with Councillor Theodoulou. He had met the Police and Crime Commissioner recently and put the points raised to him, and he was happy to continue to press him on this matter.

(13) From Councillor R Theodoulou to Councillor Mark F Annett, Leader of the Council

'Would the Leader kindly provide details of all meetings/briefings/events open to Members where information has been presented in connection with the formation and set-up of Publica?'

Response from Councillor Annett

*Meeting details are set out below:-*

(i) CDC Meetings/Briefings

<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> June 2014</i>	<i>Approval of report and outline business case for 2020 Vision for Joint Working</i>
<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> December 2014</i>	<i>Approval of establishment of a shared services partnership venture, and related decisions</i>
<i>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> July 2015</i>	<i>2020 Vision Partnership Update - Principles and Organisational Model</i>
<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>11<sup>th</sup> June 2015</i>	<i>Approval of Memorandum of Understanding</i>
<i>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> September 2015</i>	<i>2020 Vision Programme</i>
<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> September 2015</i>	<i>2020 Vision for Joint Working - Business Case</i>

<i>Council</i>	<i>29<sup>th</sup> September 2015</i>	<i>Approval of full 2020 Vision for Joint Working Business Case, operating under a Joint Committee</i>
<i>Joint Consultative Committee</i>	<i>8<sup>th</sup> February 2016</i>	<i>2020 Vision Programme Appointments - Implications for CDC</i>
<i>Council</i>	<i>23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016</i>	<i>2020 Vision Programme Appointments</i>
<i>Cabinet</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>	<i>2020 Partnership - Establishment of Companies</i>
<i>Council</i>	<i>27<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>	<i>Formation of Teckal Companies</i>
<i>Joint Consultative Committee</i>	<i>29<sup>th</sup> September 2016</i>	<i>2020 Partnership update</i>
<i>Member Briefing</i>	<i>21<sup>st</sup> February 2017</i>	<i>Update Session</i>
<i>Joint Consultative Committee</i>	<i>23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017</i>	<i>2020 Partnership update</i>
<i>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> March 2017</i>	<i>2020 Partnership Update</i>
<i>Council</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup> June 2017</i>	<i>Vires Audit</i>
<i>Joint Consultative Committee</i>	<i>6<sup>th</sup> July 2017</i>	<i>2020 Partnership update</i>
<i>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>	<i>Publica Set-Up</i>
<i>Joint Consultative Committee</i>	<i>28<sup>th</sup> September 2017</i>	<i>2020 Partnership update</i>
<i>Member Briefing</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017</i>	<i>Update Session</i>

(ii) 2020 Partnership Joint Committee Meetings

- 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016;
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016;
- 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016;
- 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017;
- 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

*In addition to the above, there were many other information 'vehicles' for members, including items within the Weekly Bulletin, and Press Releases. Members have also had the opportunity to submit formal questions at Cabinet and Council Meetings, as well as seek to engage with Officers throughout the Publica process.*

Councillor Theodoulou thanked the Leader for his response, and confirmed that he did not wish to ask a supplementary question.

#### CL.33 PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

#### CL.34 ESTABLISHMENT OF SHARED SERVICES COMPANY - PUBLICA

The Head of Democratic Services reported that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 4.1(iv), a requisition, signed by Councillors Andrew Doherty, Jenny Forde, JA Harris, M Harris and NP Robbins, had been received as follows:-

*'We the undersigned request a special Council Meeting as a matter of urgency to discuss the imminent transfer of Cotswold District Council staff and services to Publica. In particular, we are concerned about morale of staff and the concerns they have about the transfer and a lack of clarity on accountability, performance metrics and service levels. We are also concerned that tangible impacts on the council's performance are becoming apparent as the transition nears.*

*We understand that the council is committed to the process but we wonder whether it should consider a deferral of the 1<sup>st</sup> November transfer date in order that these concerns may be investigated and addressed.'*

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the Members had consented to the requisitioned debate coming before the Council at this Meeting, rather than at a Special Meeting, and he reminded the Council of the process for dealing with such requisitions.

Councillor JA Harris was invited to address the Council and he stated that the move to Publica represented a revolution in the way in which the four Councils would operate and that it represented a 'big deal' for Councillors, staff and the public. Councillor Harris further stated that he welcomed the move and the attempts by the Councils to become more efficient and to deliver quality services which, he considered, this Council had been good at doing to a large extent. However, Councillor Harris contended that there were cross-party concerns in relation to democratic accountability or the perceived lack thereof, following the transfer to Publica, and that there had been a lack of engagement with Councillors and the public. He further contended that the BBC had not been aware of the transfer until he had put out a Press Release, and that the Wilts and Glos Standard were not aware of it either, a situation he found to be regrettable. He understood that some Councillors felt that the process had been rushed through in secret and commented that he had only recently met the Non-Executive Directors. He expressed his view that the Council's identity had already been eroded by the 2020 Partnership, stating

that he had recently been handed a 2020 Partnership business card by an Officer, despite a previous reassurance that the Council's identity would be maintained, together with the Cotswold e-mail address. Councillor Harris continued by stating that the staff was the biggest resource of the organisation and should be valued. He contended that there were real concerns amongst members of staff, and he had been approached over issues such as a lack of information and uncertainty. Councillor Harris considered that the issues should have a public airing and that it was important for the Council to have a stable workforce. Councillor Harris further considered that new employees of Publica should be admitted into the Local Government Pension Scheme in order to avoid future consequences. In conclusion, he suggested that the Council should consider the approach which had been adopted by Cheltenham Borough Council as a sensible way forward.

Councillor Jenny Forde was invited to address the Council and commented that shared services aligned with need were likely to succeed. Councillor Forde explained that some concerns had been raised at a recent Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to customer needs and expectations, the wording of Service Level Agreements and if they were succeeding. In conclusion, she asked if Mrs. Gore could share some examples with Members.

Councillor M Harris was invited to address the Council, and stated that the purpose of the requisition was to ensure that the project would work, rather than to be awkward. Councillor Harris explained that, while he supported the project in principle, it should be robustly challenged, and that he wished to be treated as a Councillor and not a client. Councillor Harris also echoed the concerns expressed by Councillor JA Harris in respect of the erosion of the Council's identity, adding his view that the delivery of services by Publica would further erode that identity. He concluded by stating that the staff should be well-served and happy.

Councillor NP Robbins was invited to address the Council and he stated that he could only find one reference in the circulated report in relation to 'governance'. Councillor Robbins contended that the Council should get value for money from its services and he questioned if Members would have the same direct access to those running the services in Publica as was currently the case with employees of the Council.

Councillor Lynden Stowe was invited to address the Council and he reminded the Council of the background to the 2020 Programme; the savings made to date through joint working ventures, including Ubico Ltd.; the impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy of the loss of Revenue Support Grant and New Homes Bonus; and what he considered to be the Council's first class record to date in making savings. Councillor Stowe contended that it was likely that Publica would wish to replicate Ubico's track record, and that the public had agreed that a Council-owned Company was correct way forward for the waste service. Councillor Stowe reminded the Council that it had helped to safeguard front-line services and jobs whilst delivering resilience, protecting sovereignty and identity, and maintaining services at the levels the Council wished to deliver them. Councillor Stowe expressed his view that the public were familiar with the 2020 Programme as it had been appearing on Council, Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agendas for over three years, and he stated that there had been twenty opportunities for people

to turn up and challenge the Programme at Meetings. He considered that deferring the transfer of staff at this stage would send the wrong message, and he commented that the Trade Union Representatives had agreed that the transfer should not be deferred. He urged the Council to push ahead, as the sharing of services was one of the tools used to keep Council Tax down and to protect front-line services. He reiterated his view about the Council's excellent track record in making savings and stated that, during his time as Leader of the Council, no-one had told him that the Ubico project was a bad idea. In conclusion, Councillor Stowe stated that he had confidence in his Cabinet colleagues and Officers to deliver on Publica and to improve on the Ubico result.

Councillor M Harris was invited to address the Council again, and reiterated that the requisition had not been intended to question the background to Publica and that he and his fellow Members agreed with the principle of the project. However, they were questioning the mechanisms and there was a feeling amongst some Members that certain questions had not been answered. Councillor Harris considered there was a need for assurances and safeguards and that he wanted to know how it would all work. In conclusion, he agreed that it was a long-established principle.

Councillor Mark F Annett was invited to address the Council and he stated his view that this was a ground-breaking project and a natural progression from the Ubico Project and shared services generally. Councillor Annett understood the concerns which had been expressed but he contended that the Council was now at the stage where it had to proceed and rely on Officers to complete the project. He further contended that the role of Councillors was to question issues as the project progressed and to ensure that the correct decisions were being made. He expressed his view that this was the correct way for the Council to proceed, and agreed with the comments made by Councillor Stowe in respect of savings.

Councillor Annett Proposed that:-

- (i) Council reaffirms its support for the formation and aims of Publica Group Support Ltd. and expresses its gratitude for the support of our staff during the transfer process;
- (ii) Council recognises the cost savings and service benefits which Publica will deliver and looks forward to receiving performance updates at future Council Meetings.

Councillor NJW Parsons **SECONDED** that Proposition.

At this juncture, Councillor JA Harris requested an adjournment to enable the Members of his Group to consider the Proposition and to possibly formulate an alternative Proposition.

A Member expressed the view that joint working was the way forward for the Council. The Member commented that the future emphasis within Gloucestershire County Council would be on adult and children's services, and that this Council needed to maximise savings. The Member considered there to be sufficient information available regarding the project, and he reminded the Council that Members could ask questions and make

amendments as the process progressed. The Member further considered that the transfer date of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 should be adhered to.

Another Member referred to the background to the setting-up of Ubico, and commented that the Council was 'cash rich'. The Member expressed concern over the speed of progress in respect of issues relating to cost and pensions, and expressed his view that new employees of Publica should be admitted into the existing Local Government Pension Scheme.

On that point, the Head of Paid Service advised that the pensions issue had been resolved and that Gloucestershire County Council had agreed that a bond would not be required.

Councillor JA Harris was invited to address the Council again and he reiterated that he was not attacking the principle of the project but that he had concerns regarding what he perceived to be an inevitable erosion of sovereignty. Councillor Harris contended that saying 'it will be ok' was not the correct approach.

Another Member contended that the Council had not protected its front-line services and commented that staffing levels in Environmental Regulatory Services had been reduced by half.

Other Members expressed support for the project. Those Members commented that it would be the same people offering the same services to the public; change brought difficulties which could be addressed as they arose; Publica would enable the Council to achieve its objectives; and there would be a responsibility on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that front-line service levels were maintained and developed.

Note:

At this juncture, the Meeting was adjourned in order to allow time for Members to consider the wording of the Proposition and, if necessary, to formulate an alternative Proposition.

On reconvening, Councillor NP Robbins Proposed the following Amendment, which was Seconded by Councillor JA Harris:-

- (i) Council reaffirms its support for the formation and aims of Publica Group Support Ltd. and expresses its gratitude for the support of our staff during the transfer process;
- (ii) Council recognises the cost savings and service benefits which Publica should deliver and looks forward to receiving performance updates at all future Council Meetings.
- (iii) But Council also acknowledges that there is concern from Council Members and staff and the public about new staff terms and conditions, accountability and access to the new company by staff and Members.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was LOST. The Record of Voting in respect of the Amendment was - for 11, against 16, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.

Councillor JA Harris expressed his disappointment that the Amendment had not been carried, and commented that there were concerns about the project which, he contended, should be recognised.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) Council reaffirms its support for the formation and aims of Publica Group Support Ltd. and expresses its gratitude for the support of our staff during the transfer process;**
- (b) Council recognises the cost savings and service benefits which Publica will deliver and looks forward to receiving performance updates at future Council Meetings.**

**Record of Voting - for 16, against 8, abstentions 3, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.35 COUNCIL RETAINED OFFICER STRUCTURE AND DELEGATIONS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF SHARED SERVICES COMPANY**

The Leader of the Council introduced this item and, in so doing, Proposed the recommendations. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning Seconded that Proposal.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Democratic Services outlined the likely impact of his change in role, explaining that he would remain an employee of the Council and could be contacted by Members. In response to further questions from Members, it was reported that each Council would retain its individual scrutiny functions and would have the right to make representations to Publica without going through the Member Representative Group, and could question the Managing Director and Cabinet Members; it was unlikely that the process for service improvement would change; 'convenience' was a legal term which would be defined in the final version of the documents; the issue of a Council leaving the Company had been addressed in Clause 35 on page 56 of the circulated report; there was no penalty for withdrawal, but there would be consequential costs depending on the nature of the exit; and Clause 35.2 related to a change in control at the Company.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) the following Officers be designated to the specified Statutory Officer roles with effect from the date of transfer:-**

**Nigel Adams - Head of Paid Service;  
Jenny Poole - Section 151 Officer;  
Bhavna Patel - Monitoring Officer;**

- (b) the structure in the report be approved, and the Head of Paid Service be authorised to determine the manner in which the discharge by the authority of its different functions is co-ordinated in conjunction with Publica, in line with paragraph 3.8 of the circulated report;**



- (c) Officers employed either solely or partly by the Council be employed on the same basis as those Council employees who are transferring to Publica;**
- (d) the Head of the Paid Service be designated as the Council's Proper Officer for any functions or purposes where the matter does not fall within the specific authority of one of the statutory Officers or any of the roles where dual employment will apply;**
- (e) the Head of Paid Services be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution as a result of the changes approved pursuant to this report.**

**Record of Voting - for 23, against 1, abstentions 3, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.36 COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION**

The Leader of the Council presented the report and recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of a request for an additional funding allocation for the Community Projects Fund.

The Leader Proposed an amendment in respect of recommendation (a) to the effect that the Capital Programme 2017/18 be increased by a sum of £200,000 to provide additional funding to the Community Projects Fund. The Leader also Proposed recommendation (b), and his Propositions were Seconded by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning.

A number of Members expressed support for the Propositions, as amended. Those Members considered that demand for grant aid from the Council was likely to increase over time and that such demand currently outstripped the available funding, and that it would help to lever money into the District from other sources and enable additional community support. In response to a question from a Member, it was reported that no changes were being suggested in relation to the maximum grant limit per project.

A Member commented that he did not have much information about this, or other grant funds. In response, it was reported that an information pack on funding opportunities was being compiled, which would include links to funding from other organisations, such as Gloucestershire County Council and the Cotswolds Conservation Board, as well as opportunities to combine individual funding allocations.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) the Capital Programme 2017/18 be increased by a sum of £200,000 to provide additional funding to the Community Projects Fund;**
- (b) the Group Manager GO Shared Services be authorised to amend the relevant Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 in line with resolution (a) above.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.37 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2016/17 INCLUDING PERFORMANCE AGAINST PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

The Leader of the Council introduced this item, which had been considered by the Audit Committee at its Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Treasury Management Review 2016/17, and the associated Prudential Indicators, be approved.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.38 UPDATE TO TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18**

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

In response to a question from a Member, it was reported that the other Partner Councils would be asked to make a similar short-term loan facility to Publica, which would be covered by a legal agreement.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18 be updated to include Publica Group (Support) Ltd. as an approved counterparty;**
- (b) investments with Publica Group (Support) Ltd. be limited to a maximum of £500,000 and for periods of no longer than one year;**
- (c) Officers be authorised to apply for the Council to be recognised as a professional client for treasury management transactional purposes.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.39 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN**

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

The Council was requested to consider the posthumous award of Honorary Alderman status to former Councillor Jim Parsons. It was reported that, at the time of his death in September 2017, former Councillor Parsons had accrued well in excess of the fifteen points required for automatic conferment of the title.

In expressing support for this item, a Member referred to former Councillor Parsons' service on the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and his passion for the ambulance service. The Member commented that the Council should carry on the 'battle' as former Councillor Parsons' legacy.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) former Councillor Jim Parsons be proposed for the title of Honorary Alderman;**

**(b) a Special Meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, at the conclusion of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on that date, to bestow the title on former Councillor Parsons.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.40 ISSUES/ REPORTS ARISING FROM CABINET**

There were no other issues arising from the Cabinet.

**CL.41 ISSUES/REPORTS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND/OR AUDIT**

There were no issues/reports arising from Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit.

**CL.42 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motions had been received:-

- (i) Motion 7/2017 re Lowering the Voting Age - Proposed by Councillor Jenny Forde and Seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton

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

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

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

*This Council therefore requests the Leader of this Council to write to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds asking that a letter be written to county representatives of the Youth Parliament to express support in lowering the voting age to 16.'*

The Chairman referred to his comments made earlier in the Meeting relating to the deferment of this Notice of Motion to a future Meeting of the Council, a course of action supported by the Proposer and seconder of the Motion..

- (ii) Motion 8/2017 re Members' ICT - Proposed by Councillor M Harris and Seconded by Councillor Jenny Forde

*'Council notes that it has been a number of years since this authority last carried out a review of members ICT.*

*Council also notes that Gloucestershire County Council have recently supplied all Councillors and senior staff with tablet computers in order to improve the supply of information, save money on printing and improve the authority's environmental footprint.*

*Council also expresses frustration and concern that Councillors are unable to have their own email mailbox and are unable to send emails from their cotswold.gov.uk account. Instead emails are forwarded to personal email accounts. As well as being inconvenient this raises concerns about data protection and freedom of information requests.*

*Council therefore resolves to set up a cross party working group to review members ICT and present findings in advance of the Council's budget setting meeting in February 2018.'*

The Chairman of the Council stated that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, he intended to allow the Motion to be debated at the Council Meeting, and he invited Councillors M Harris and Forde to formally Propose, Second and speak to their Motion.

In Proposing the Motion, Councillor Harris stated that the Council should be getting up-to-date with technology, and noted that Gloucestershire County Councillors could access all documents using i-Pads, which enabled long documents to be searched. Councillor Harris suggested that a Working Group be established to review the arrangements and that the default should be electronic versions of Council papers but that 'hard' copies should be provided to those Members who requested them. Councillor Harris concluded by stating his view that the Council's e-mail system was antiquated.

In Seconding the Motion, Councillor Forde stated that she agreed with the comments made by Councillor Harris and that the Council should move with the times. Councillor Forde contended that e-mail was the preferred method of communication and concluded by stating that she was uncomfortable with the current e-mail provisions, and that she preferred to keep her private and public e-mail addresses separate.

In response, it was reported that the Council was already looking at the e-mail situation and that there were a number of issues to be addressed. It was noted that the proposed data protection regulations would be more stringent than currently was the case.

A number of Members expressed support for this Motion. A Member stated that Gloucestershire County Council had established a cross-party Working Group, which had had an impact on efficiency. The Member expressed the hope that any review would be as wide as possible.

**RESOLVED that Motion 8/2017 be supported.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6.**

- (iii) Motion 9/2017 re On-Street Parking in Cirencester - Proposed by Councillor JA Harris and Seconded by Councillor Jenny Forde

*'Council notes that parking in Cirencester continues to be a major issue for local residents, businesses and visitors of the Town.*

*Council commends the work of CDC's own parking board in trying to increase the capacity of Cirencester's car parks and believes that in order to complement the work of the parking board a review of on-street parking should also be undertaken.*

*Council requests that Gloucestershire County Council now undertake a comprehensive review of on-street parking as soon as possible to complement the work of the parking board and instructs Leader of Council to write to the cabinet member for parking at the County Council outlining this Council's position.'*

The Chairman of the Council stated that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, he intended to allow the Motion to be debated at the Council Meeting, and he invited Councillors JA Harris and Forde to formally Propose, Second and speak to their Motion.

In Proposing the Motion, Councillor Harris considered parking in Cirencester to be an issue across the town. Councillor Harris stated that he was seeking a review of on-street parking in light of the excellent work carried out by the Council's Parking Board to increase capacity in the car parks in the town. Councillor Harris commented that the last review of on-street parking had been undertaken some four years' ago and that, in his opinion, it had failed as a consensus had not been able to be reached and the review had not been conducted in an holistic way. Councillor Harris contended that residents had been offered a scheme which they neither wanted nor needed, but that a lot had been learnt from that review and the community would be better prepared in assisting and informing a further review. Councillor Harris commented that such a review could tie-in with the work of this Council's attempts to increase off-street parking, and that local support was vital for any review. In conclusion, Councillor Harris commented that cross-party support for this Motion would send a clear message to the County Council.

In Seconding the Motion, Councillor Forde stated that she had recently attended a parking conference, and that parking was an issue in the community. Councillor Forde concluded by commenting that traffic flows and parking provision could help to improve air quality and keep traffic moving around the town.

A Member expressed support for the work being undertaken by this Council's Parking Board. The Member suggested that the Motion be amended by the inclusion of the words 'cross-party' between the words 'the work of' and 'the parking board' in the third line of the second paragraph of the Motion.

Councillor JA Harris stated that he welcomed the suggested amendment and that he envisaged two separate Working Groups which might work together.

**RESOLVED that Motion 9/2017 be supported, as amended.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

- (iv) Motion 10/2017 re the Armed Forces Community and the 2021 Census - Proposed by Councillor PCB Coleman and Seconded by Councillor NJW Parsons

*'This Council notes:*

1. *The obligations its owes to the Armed Forces community within Cotswold District as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.*
2. *The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Cotswold District. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.*
3. *That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Cotswold District.*

*In light of the above, this Council moves to support and promote The Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community. We acknowledge that the collection and publication of this information must be subject to the security requirements of the Ministry of Defence. Subject to that, we further call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community.'*

In Proposing the Motion, Councillor Coleman deferred to his Seconder. In Seconding the Motion, Councillor Parsons commended the Motion to the Council.

**RESOLVED that Motion 10/2017 be supported.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 6.**

**CL.43 DECISION TAKEN BY HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

It was noted that, following consultation with the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, the relevant Ward Members and appropriate Officers/advisers, the Head of Paid Service had exercised his emergency powers (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 38) to increase each public speaking 'slot' (Town Council; Objectors; Supporters; Applicant/Agent) at the Special Council Meeting which had been held to consider the BDL Application re the Chesterton Strategic Site in Cirencester to thirty minutes (from the ten minutes agreed at the Council Meeting in February 2017).

**CL.44 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to all contracts, conveyances and any other documents necessary for carrying into effect all resolutions passed by the Council.**

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.45 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph (3) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (Information relating to financial or business affairs) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned.

**Record of Voting - for 27, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 6, vacancy 1.**

**CL.20 CIRENCESTER PARKING**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing Services and Cirencester Parking Project presented the report and recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of securing funding for an open and transparent architect selection process in relation to Waterloo Decked Car Park proposal, and agreement for the acquisition and development of decant parking facilities during the construction phase, and longer-term permit parking.

The Cabinet Member amplified aspects of the circulated report, and Officers responded to various questions from Members thereon.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) a sum of £110,000 be allocated from the Council Priorities Fund for the preparation of a planning application for the development of the identified site (£60,000) and detailed design and management if the scheme goes ahead (£50,000);**
- (b) additional capital funding in a sum of £200,000 be included in the Capital Programme 2017/18 for car parking, specifically for the development of the identified site;**
- (c) the Prudential Indicators be updated accordingly.**

**Record of Voting - for 26, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 7, vacancy 1.**

**CL.21 PROPERTY MATTER - CIRENCESTER**

This item had been withdrawn.

The Meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m., adjourned between 11.20 a.m. and 11.45 a.m., and closed at 1.20 p.m.

Chairman

(END)