



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tuesday, 8 November 2022

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held at Council Chamber - Trinity Road on **Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at 2.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Stephen Andrews, Tony Berry, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Rachel Coxcoon, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Andrew Doherty, Mike Evemy, Jenny Forde, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Stephen Hirst, Robin Hughes, Roly Hughes, Nikki Ind, Sue Jepson, Julia Judd, Richard Keeling, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Nick Maunder, Richard Morgan, Dilys Neill, Richard Norris, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Ray Theodoulou, Steve Trotter and Clive Webster)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to 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 prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes (Pages 9 - 26)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the ordinary Council meeting held on 21 September 2022 and the extraordinary Council meeting held on 5 October 2022.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)**
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate to issues under the Council's or Committee's remit. Any member of the public wishing to ask a public question is requested to contact Democratic Services by no later than 5.00pm the working day before the meeting.
6. **Member Questions**
The following questions have been submitted. Written responses will be published prior to the meeting:

Question 1 from Councillor Claire Bloomer to Councillor Joe Harris, The Leader of the Council

I am concerned about the spread of graffiti in our towns and the increasing effort and cost to clean it up. Has the Council considered using community payback by offenders to clean up areas blighted by graffiti thereby saving both officer time and council funds?

Question 2 from Councillor Claire Bloomer to Councillor Joe Harris, The Leader of the Council

We have recently seen more cuts to bus services in the Cotswolds. These cuts will have a huge impact on residents who rely on them to get to work, to the shops, for medical appointments and to see friends and family. What can the Council do to help residents whose bus services are being withdrawn?

Question 3 from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Transformation

I note that Cabinet has approved a sum of £125,000 for new car parking charge machines which have a higher speed for authorising card charges and don't accept cash. Given the inflationary challenges facing the Council, would this not be a good opportunity to save a not unsubstantial amount of money by retaining our existing machines and at the same time pleasing all those members of the public who still want to pay for their parking in cash?

Question 4 from Councillor Tony Berry to Councillor Joe Harris, The Leader of the Council

Please could you tell us how many old road signs you sold at the recent auction and the amount received for them net of commission?

Question 5 from Councillor Stephen Andrews to Councillor Joe Harris, The Leader of the Council

In September 2020 the Council approved its first Recovery Investment Strategy to provide critical support to the key priorities in the Corporate Plan 2020-2024. This was re-approved more recently in July of this year to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan to 2020-2024. At the same time, there was no analysis of the financial risks within the strategy that might impact upon the delivery of key Corporate Plan outcomes and there was no prioritisation within the Corporate Plan of those outcomes.

Given the stated intent to rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy, which outcomes within the Corporate Plan is it proposed to scale back or will no longer be delivered?

Question 6 from Councillor Julia Judd to Councillor Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Recycling

We were told earlier this year that instances of green waste fly tipping have greatly increased. Please could we be told by what percentage (ideally since 2019 or from whenever there are recent records) and how much it has cost the council to collect green waste fly tipping?

Question 7 to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transformation, from Councillor Tom Stowe

Following the news of the Cabinet's u-turn and its decision to rescind the planned £75,000,000 Recovery Investment Strategy. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the sunk costs incurred by the council in relation to developing these now abandoned plans over the last 3 years, including Consultancy fees, Officer's time and any other associated costs.

Question 8 to Councillor Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, from Councillor Ray Theodoulou.

Is the administration planning to increase the cost to the public of any leisure facilities?

7. Cost of Living Working Group (Pages 27 - 34)

Purpose

To set out how the Council is responding to the Cost of Living and Warm Places Motions and to make recommendations for funding allocations for specific initiatives.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

- a) Agree to allocate match funding of £20,000 for the Council Tax Hardship Fund from the balance of the Covid-19 Hardship Fund earmarked reserve, and,
- b) Agree to allocate £40,000 from the Council Priorities Fund towards establishing a Food Network.

8. **Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals for 2023/24 (Pages 35 - 46)**

Purpose

To present the results of the public consultation on proposals for revising the current Council Tax Support scheme with effect from 1 April 2023.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

- a) Agree the increase to income bands as detailed within paragraph 2.8 and Annex B of this report from 1 April 2023.
- b) Agree that officers may consider backdating Council Tax Support for a period beyond four weeks, but for no longer than six months, if there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances (or good cause) would apply in situations such as:
 - (i) The claimant was seriously ill (physically or mentally)
 - (ii) Someone the claimant should have been able to rely on for support did not give the support required (such as the Council, Advice Agency, DWP or a support worker) and therefore the claimant was not aware they were able to claim for Council Tax Support
 - (iii) Some external factor that prevented a claim being made (such as imprisoned, detained under the Mental Health Act)

9. **Recommendation from Cabinet 3rd October 2022: Changing Places Toilets (Pages 47 - 50)**

Purpose

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet on 3 October 2022 relating to funding for "Changing Places" toilets.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to allocate a capital budget of £162,500 in 2022/23 to install four accessible 'Changing Places' toilets across the district for people with severe disabilities following a successful bid for funding from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities.

10. **Recovery Investment Strategy (Pages 51 - 56)**

Purpose

To rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to agree to rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy for the reasons as set out in the report.

11. **Implications of Elections Act 2022 (Pages 57 - 62)**

Purpose

To provide an update on the key elements of the Elections Act 2022 and its implications for the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Services team.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

- I. Note the report and the allocation of £23,910 from the Council's Priorities Fund to provide additional staff resource to enable the Council to meet the requirements for Voter ID at elections taking place on or after 4 May 2023.

12. **Executive Scrutiny Protocol (Pages 63 - 72)**

Purpose

To consider a recommendation from Cabinet on 3 October 2022 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2022 relating to the Executive Scrutiny Protocol.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to approve the addition of an Executive Scrutiny Protocol into the Constitution.

13. **Draft Programme of Meetings 2023-24 (Pages 73 - 82)**

Purpose

To set a programme of Council and committee meetings for 2023-24.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

- a) Approve the programme of meetings for May 2023 and the inclusion of a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting on 26 April 2023 as set out in part 2 of the report and shown in Annex A;
- b) Note that the Leader of the Council has agreed to move the Cabinet meeting originally scheduled for 6 March 2023 to 13 March 2023 and to cancel the Cabinet meeting that was scheduled for 3 April 2023;
- c) Approve the programme of meetings for June 2023 to May 2024 (Annex B);
- d) Delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Leaders, to make changes to the programme of meetings in the event that there is any future decision of Council to change the committee structure or committee remits that impacts the programme of meetings;
- e) Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Business Manager to set meeting dates for the Performance and Appointments Committee and the Licensing Sub-Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Matters);
- f) Agree that, subject to any alternative proposals Council considers and agrees, meeting start times will be rolled forwards from 2022/23;
- g) Delegate Authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) to set dates for member training and briefing sessions and any working groups established by the Council.

14. **Notice of Motions**

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

Motion I on Provision of Community Public Access Defibrillators on New Developments. Proposed by Councillor Tom Stowe, seconded by Councillor Stephen Andrews.

This Council notes:

According to the British Heart Foundation there are over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac

arrests in the United Kingdom each year where emergency medical services attempt to resuscitate the victim. However, the survival rate is very low.

Early use of Automated External Defibrillators can double the chances of survival. However, unfortunately, for every 1 minute delay the chances of survival can reduce by 10%.

Given the rural nature of our district, the chances of swift medical intervention from the emergency services are limited, therefore, access to a good network of Community Public Access Defibrillators, that can be accessed swiftly, is vital to safeguard the health and well-being of our residents.

This council also notes.

In many cases the responsibility for the installation of CPADs in our communities falls to local voluntary and community groups. This presents many challenges, not just for funding, but also working and negotiating with various parties with regards to finding suitable siting and electrical supplies for the devices.

With ongoing and future development throughout the district, keeping up with the installation of new CPADs can be a very difficult task. Best practice guidance states that CPADs should be located no further than 400 metres apart.

This council believes that the Health and Well-being of our residents should be at the forefront of everything that it does.

This council therefore resolves to give authority to the Forward Planning Team to investigate options to amend the Regulations in the new Cotswold Local Plan to address this issue, and to ensure that any new housing developments within the district include the provision for the supply and installation of sufficient Community Public Access Defibrillators to cover the housing and industrial area of the new development. An exception may be considered for smaller developments of less than 6 properties.

Motion 2 on Menopause. Proposed by Councillor Claire Bloomer, seconded by Councillor Andrew Doherty.

Council notes that:

- i. 51 per cent of the UK population will directly experience the menopause during their lifetime;
- ii. Over 13 million women in the UK are either menopausal or peri-menopausal at any time;
- iii. 4.5 million of those 13 million women are in the workplace;
- iv. Three out of four women experience menopause-related symptoms with one in four experiencing serious symptoms;
- v. 1.6 million working days are lost to menopause symptoms annually as a result.

Menopause can see women experiencing a wide range of symptoms including hot flushes, fatigue, anxiety, disturbed sleep, heavy and erratic periods, mood swings, rage, heart palpitations, and itchiness.

The intensity and combination of some of these symptoms can be unsettling. In particular, when oestrogen levels decrease in the lead up to menopause, cognition suffers. Women may struggle with memory, word retrieval, and other cognitive

activities. For some, the change in cognitive function is so pronounced they fear they are developing dementia or Alzheimer's. These changes can also reduce their confidence to manage their work, home and social life.

Hormone levels may exacerbate existing conditions such as ADHD, and medication and strategies for managing those conditions may not work as effectively as they once did.

Many menopausal women are finding it difficult to obtain Hormone Replacement Therapy medicines due to increased demand and supply chain issues, adding to their anxiety.

Support for women with menopausal symptoms in the workplace is variable and understanding by managers and other employees is often limited. In some cases, understanding and empathy is so poor that women receive insults and rude comments from colleagues and managers. As a result, many women end up leaving their workplace as they feel unable to continue in their role.

Cotswold District Council welcomes steps taken by Cirencester Town Council to develop a menopause policy for its staff. Adjustments that can be made include:

- i. Allowing flexibility in work patterns
- ii. Increasing ventilation
- iii. Allowing people to move their work location to be closer to a toilet
- iv. Giving time off to attend medical appointments and support groups
- v. Designating a member of staff for women to approach about the effect of the menopause on their work
- vi. Providing professional counselling if requested

Cotswold District Council also welcomes the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Menopause in 2021.

Cotswold District Council asks its Teckal companies, Publica and Ubico, to review their menopause policies to ensure that their staff and CDC retained staff going through the menopause have the understanding and support they need.

The Council also commits to:

- i. Campaign for menopause support to form a central part of the next national Women's Health Strategy;
- ii. Working with Gloucestershire County Council and other local health organisations to ensure that support for those experiencing menopause is a central part of the next Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy;
- iii. Supporting the #MakeMenopauseMatter campaign which is calling for:
 - a) Mandatory menopause training for all GPs and menopause to be taught as part of every medical school curriculum,
 - b) Menopause guidance and support in every workplace,
 - c) Menopause to be added to the Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum for schools throughout the UK.

15. **Next meeting**
Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 2.00pm.

16. **Matters exempt from publication**

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Council may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

17. **Exempt minutes of 21 September Council meeting (Pages 83 - 84)**

Purpose

To approve the exempt minutes from the 21 September 2022 Council meeting

(END)