



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2022**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend.

This meeting is open to the public and those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions in agenda item 3, but any members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Democratic Services Team committee.services@exeter.gov.uk in advance. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions.

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube.

[Democratic Meetings - YouTube](#)

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact John Street, Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support on 01392 265106.

The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

	Pages
1 Minutes	
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022	7 - 24
2 Official Communications	
3 Public Questions	
Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support at least three working days prior to the meeting - by 10am on Thursday 8 December 2022. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Democratic Services (Committees) (Tel: 01392 265115) with details about speaking at Council to be found here: Public Speaking at Meetings .	

To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:-

4 Planning Committee - 10 October 2022	25 - 44
5 Licensing Committee - 24 November 2022	45 - 46
6 Audit and Governance Committee - 30 November 2022	47 - 54
7 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 17 November 2022	55 - 62
8 Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 1 December 2022	63 - 74
9 Exeter Harbour Board - 26 October 2022	75 - 80
10 Executive - 1 November 2022	81 - 88
11 Executive - 29 November 2022	89 - 108

12 Notice of Motion by Councillor Pearce under Standing Order No. 6

Armed Forces Act 2021

This Council:

- Stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Welcomes the new Armed Forces Act but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans in Exeter.
- Notes with disappointment that the Act which makes Exeter City Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- Notes with further disappointment that Labour led proposals backed by service charities and ex-Service chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation, employment support and pensions and to end the scandal of visa fees for the families of Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.
- Resolves to continue the campaign with Forces charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.

13 Notice of Motion by Councillor Wood under Standing Order No. 6

Plant-Based Food

1. This Council recognises the importance of accessing a whole-food plant-based diet [1, 2] and the effect dietary choices can have on individual carbon footprints.

2. This Council recognises the importance of a balanced diet as well as individual choice and catering for all dietary requirements. Increasing awareness of dietary choices and resulting impact to individual carbon footprint can allow individuals to make more informed choices.

3. The special report on climate change and land by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes plant-based diets as a major opportunity for mitigating and adapting to climate change - and includes a policy recommendation to reduce meat consumption. [3]

4. The National Food Strategy recommended cutting meat consumption by 30% in a decade. [4]

5. When we talk about emissions, we usually think of carbon dioxide (CO₂). But livestock's emissions also include methane, which is up to 34 times more damaging to the environment over 100 years than CO₂, according to the UN. [5]

6. Beef produces the most greenhouse gas emissions, which include methane. A global average of 110lb (50kg) of greenhouse gases is released per 3.5oz of protein. Lamb has the next highest environmental footprint but these emissions are 50% less than beef. Cattle produce more methane than poultry, which rely more on imported feed than cows, generating a carbon footprint offshore, says Professor Margaret Gill. [6]

7. The plant-based food market is booming. With one-third of UK consumers choosing to actively reduce their meat consumption, the demand for plant-based innovation is growing at a rapid pace. [7]

8. Plant-based food contributes to Exeter City Council corporate priorities, including our Net Zero 2030 target through to personal wellbeing.

Council asks Executive to:

1. Ensure that by the Exeter City Council Annual Council in May 2023, food provided at all internal Council catered events and meetings, including those hosted by the Mayoralty, be plant-based.

2. Ensure that all Council run external sites including Leisure Centres, cafes and restaurants have plant-based options available as part of their regular catering offer and advertised clearly on their menu.

3. Set up a cross-party Task and Finish Working Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, of officers, elected Members including other relevant Portfolio Holders and invited experts to promote and embed these principles in Exeter City Council's food provision where practicable.

References

[1] The term "whole" in whole foods plant based diet describes foods that are minimally processed. This includes whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and legumes.

[2] The term "plant-based" refers to vegetables, grains, pulses, or other foods derived from plants, rather than animal products.

[3] IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/> [4] National Food Strategy: An Independent Review for Government. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/the-report/>

[5] United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Methane Management: The Challenge. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://unece.org/challenge>

[6] BBC Climate change: Do I need to stop eating meat? Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-59232599>

[7] Vegan Society. A third of shoppers report they are cutting down on meat or ditching it completely in a response to the cost-of-living crisis. Accessed on 24th November 2022: <https://www.vegansociety.com/news/news/third-shoppers-report-reducing-or-ditching-meat>

14 Notice of Motion by Councillor Atkinson under Standing Order No. 6

State Pension Inequality

Council notes that:

- In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.
- The change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some only one year's notice of a six year increase in their anticipated retirement age. Nearly 6,000 of the affected women are in our own authority area.

- The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found that the Department for Work and Pensions was guilty of maladministration in its handling of the State Pension Age increase for women born in the 1950s.
- The All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women has concluded that “the impact of DWP maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread. The APPG believes that the case for category 6 injustice is overwhelming and clear. Women have had their emotional, physical, and mental circumstances totally obliterated by a lack of reasonable notice.”
- Research commissioned by campaign group WASPI has found that by the end of 2022, more than 220,000 1950s born women will have died waiting for justice since the WASPI campaign began in 2015.
- WASPI’s figures show that over the course of the two year COVID pandemic, 1 in 10 women who died was affected by these uncommunicated changes and lost both their state pension income and the opportunity to make alternative retirement plans.
- Despite the Ombudsman’s findings and the rapid death rate of those affected, the government is choosing to wait for further reports before taking any action.

Council believes this injustice has not only had a profound effect on the individuals involved but on the wider community in Exeter and on local government, not least because:

- Women who would have looked after older relatives or partners are unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care.
- Women who would have retired and engaged in caring responsibilities for grandchildren are having to continue working, increasing the childcare burden on the state locally.
- Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing stock.
- There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
- Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income the uncommunicated State Pension Age changes has brought about among women born in the 1950’s.

Council supports:

- The conclusion of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
- A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more and more women die waiting for compensation.
- The WASPI campaign for an immediate one-off compensation payment of between £11,666 and £20,000 to those affected, with the most going to women who were given the shortest notice of the longest increase in their state pension age.

Council asks:

- The Leader of the Council to write to local Members of Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women on the community in Exeter and to seek their support for an immediate compensation package.

15 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No. 8

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annexe.

Date: Monday 5 December 2022

Karime Hassan MBE
Chief Executive & Growth Director