

## **COUNCIL**

### **HELD AT COUNTY HALL**

Tuesday 14 December 2021

#### **Present:-**

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor Councillor Trish Oliver (Chair)

Councillors Allcock, Bialyk, Branston, Denning, Foale, Ghusain, Hannaford, Harvey, Mrs Henson, Holland, Jobson, Leadbetter, Lights, Mitchell, K, Mitchell, M, Moore, D, Moore, J, Morse, Newby, Packham, Pearce, Sheldon, Sills, Sparkes, Sparling, Sutton, Wardle, Wood and Wright

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#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atkinson, Buswell, Martin, Pearson, Quance, Vizard, Warwick and Williams.

73

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2021 were moved by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Wright taken as read, approved and signed as correct.

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#### **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Lord Mayor passed on her condolences, and those of Council Members, to the family and friends of Alderman Joan Richardson, a former Mayor, Councillor and Alderman of this city who had recently passed away.

The Lord Mayor also passed on her condolences, and those of Council Members, to the family, friends and colleagues of Peter Jones who had died unexpectedly. Peter, with his colleague Penny, ran a marketing company called Smith & Jones, working across Exeter with the Council's key partners, residents and staff as one of the co-founders of Exeter Live Better - positioning the city as The Brilliant Alternative. Peter wanted to put people's wellbeing and quality of life at the heart of everything and recognised the outstanding qualities the city had to offer. He would often say that 'Exeter hides its light under a bushel - and then hides the bushel'.

The Lord Mayor received a petition from the residents of Albert Street which would be responded to in accordance with the petition scheme.

The Lord Mayor also reported the following:-

- the return home of HMS Defender, the City's Affiliated Ship, which had been at sea for more than seven months. The Lord Mayor had recently spoken to Commander Vince Owen, the Commanding Officer via a zoom call;
- the appointment of the Right Reverend Robert Atwell to the House of Lords who would now sit on the benches of the Lords Spiritual, amongst 26 other Bishops who sit in Parliament's Upper House, leading the House in prayer each morning, playing an active role in the life and work of the House. With that honour, he had become the Right Reverend Prelate the Lord Bishop of Exeter;

- the attendance of the past Lord Mayor, Councillor Peter Holland, at the annual flag raising ceremony in honour of the Polish Squadron 307 who had played a part in defending the city during World War II; and
- the wreath laying by the Leader on behalf of the city at St. James' Park.

The Lord Mayor advised that she had attended the following:-

- the wreath laying ceremony at the Remembrance Service at the War memorial in Northernhay Gardens on 14 November 2021;
- the Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen's annual dinner at Tuckers Hall on 19 November 2021;
- the biennial Achievement Awards of the Rifles at London's Guildhall on 24 November 2021;
- the Freedomship of the City ceremony at the Guildhall in honour of Richard Jacobs on 30 November 2021;
- the ceremony welcoming former Councillor Olwen Foggin as an Honorary Alderman on 3 December 2021;
- Exeter's Hanukkah celebrations in Bedford Square on 5 December 2021;
- the city's Mosque on 10 December 2021;
- the Winter Graduation ceremony at the University Great Hall on 10 December 2021; and
- a number of concerts and fairs as well as the Lord Mayor's Christmas Charity morning at which £400 had been raised towards funds for Inclusive Exeter, her chosen charity to support project work across the city.

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillors for taking lateral flow tests prior to the meeting.

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#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Morse declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute 76 below regarding Minute No. 57 of those minutes.

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#### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Lord Mayor reported that no questions had been received from the public.

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#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE - 11 OCTOBER 2021**

As the Chair of the Committee had declared an interest in one of the items on the agenda, and in the absence of the Deputy Chair of the Committee from the meeting, the minutes of the Planning Committee of 11 October 2021 were presented by Councillor Sutton, a Member of the Committee, and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 October 2021 be received.

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#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE - 15 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 15 November 2021 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Morse, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 64 (Planning Application No. 21/1104/FUL – The Harlequin Centre, Paul Street, Exeter)**, the Chair, in response to a query from a Member referring to the absence of national guidance on the definition of co-living

and suggesting that the Planning Member Working Group could be asked to develop a suitable policy on this issue for the city, advised that it was not the role of the Planning Member Working Group to formulate policy. This issue however was under consideration as part of bringing forward the new Local Plan.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 November 2021 be received.

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#### **LICENSING COMMITTEE - 26 OCTOBER 2021**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 26 October 2021 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Branston, and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 26 October 2021 be received.

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#### **STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee of 18 November 2021 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Denning and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 28 (Questions from Members of the Council Under Standing Order 20)**, the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Environment, in response to a query from a Member, confirmed that he would liaise with the Portfolio Holder for City Management with a view to convening the first meeting of the Transport Working Group in the New Year.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee held on 18 November 2021 be received.

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#### **CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 7 OCTOBER 2021**

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee of 7 October 2021 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor M. Mitchell and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 7 October 2021 be received.

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#### **CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2 DECEMBER 2021**

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee of 2 December 2021 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor M. Mitchell and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 31 (Car Parks and Environmental Considerations)**, the Portfolio Holder for City Management, in response to a query from a Member, confirmed that a report on work place parking levies would be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Also in response to a query from a Member, the Portfolio Holder for City Management, referred to the useful and informed discussion at the Committee on the future of the Council's car park service. The ideas discussed would be considered further, including the importance of setting the right charging structure to combat traffic congestion in the city. He also stated that the City Council would work

with the County Council in respect of appropriate pricing regimes for on-street parking.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 2 December 2021 be received.

83                    **COMBINED STRATEGIC SCRUTINY AND CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - 20 OCTOBER 2021**

In the absence of the Chair of the meeting of the combined scrutiny committees, the minutes of the Combined Strategic Scrutiny Committee and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee of 20 October 2021 were presented by Councillor Denning, the Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee and a Member of the Joint Committee, and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 20 October 2021 be received.

84                    **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 10 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 10 November 2021 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Wardle, and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 10 November 2021 be received.

85                    **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 1 DECEMBER 2021**

As the Chair of the Committee had not attended the meeting, and in the absence of the Deputy Chair, the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 1 December 2021 were presented by Councillor Hannaford, a Member of the Committee, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 74 (Decision to Opt into the National External Audit Tender)**, Councillor Hannaford moved and Councillor M. Mitchell seconded the recommendation and following a vote, it was carried unanimously.

In respect of **Minute No. 75 (Extension of the Appointment of the Council's Two Independent Persons)**, Councillor Hannaford moved and Councillor M. Mitchell seconded the recommendation and following a vote, it was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 1 December 2021 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

86                    **EXETER STRATEGIC BOARD - 11 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Exeter Strategic Board of 11 November 2021 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Exeter Strategic Board held on 11 November 2021 be received.

**EXECUTIVE - 2 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Executive of 2 November 2021 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 106 (Requests for Information)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

In respect of **Minute No. 108 (Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2021-2023)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Executive held on 2 November 2021 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

**EXECUTIVE - 30 NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Executive of 30 November 2021 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 115 (Members' Allowances 2022/23)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried unanimously.

In respect of the following Minute, the Chief Executive & Growth Director declared an interest and left the meeting during the consideration of this matter.

In respect of **Minute No. 116 (Changes to the role of the Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Strategic Management Board)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Leadbetter, as leader of an opposition group, moved and Councillor Jobson seconded the following amendments:-

"That Executive recommends and Council approves that:-

- (i) to ensure transparency and accountability Exeter City Council take over the work of Exeter City Futures CIC (ECF) with respect to the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan and that strategic partners are invited to support and work with the Chief Executive Officer and Exeter City Council on the delivery of that Plan;
- (ii) recommendation (1) and (2) are therefore deleted;
- (iii) recommendation (3) is amended to read "That the arrangements are reviewed by regular reporting to Scrutiny which shall include an update on each of the 12 key targets";
- (iv) recommendation (4) be deferred until the first review of the arrangements;
- (v) recommendation (5) is deleted;
- (vi) a new recommendation (5) is added to read "The Net Zero 2030 Plan be added to the corporate risk register"; and
- (vii) recommendation (6) to stand.

Councillor Leadbetter, in presenting the amendments, stated that, whilst all stakeholders were signed up to the goal of achieving Net Zero Exeter 2030, this could be better achieved within the City Council by its senior officers rather than by a stand-alone body as this would enable proper scrutiny by Members. He asked for an explanation why it was considered that Net Zero could not be achieved in-house but should be put out to a third party organisation.

Councillor Jobson, in seconding the motion, stated that there was a greater likelihood of the Net Zero Exeter 2030 goal being achieved by ensuring that it remained in-house rather than being led by Exeter City Futures CIC (ECF). She was particularly concerned that ECF was not operating in a sufficiently transparent manner, citing as evidence the lack of clarity in respect of the use of various Government grants and the latest set of ECF minutes being 24 November 2020, which only recorded decisions taken and not the background information. Further, the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019 were not filed with Companies House until December 2020. She also asked why Devon County Council was not currently represented on the ECF Board.

Councillor Jobson also stated that it was vital for the City Council to be democratically accountable to the citizens of Exeter in combating Climate Change and delivering Net Zero and this could best be achieved through the Council's internal mechanisms including the Audit and Governance and Scrutiny Committees, the Executive and Full Council, rather than a separate company. The City Council, through its democratic processes, was better placed than ECF to share with residents its practices and projects as well as those of the other major stakeholders in the city already working with the Council, to ensure that as many in the city as possible were fully on board with the challenge.

Councillor Leadbetter commended the amendments to Council.

Councillor Bialyk, as Leader, stated that his group would not be supporting the amendments.

### **The amendments were put to the vote and LOST.**

Councillor M. Mitchell moved and Councillor Sparling seconded the following amendment:-

“That recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5 be referred to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee to consider the implications of the recommendations and to report to the Executive prior to the next Council meeting”

In presenting his amendment, Councillor M. Mitchell stated that, whilst delivering the Net Zero agenda was recognised by all as a key priority for the Council, the proposed changes to the Council's working arrangements through the secondment of senior officers should be subjected to scrutiny and reported to Council. He suggested that the proposals being put forward should also be considered in the context of Government proposals for changing the planning system, potential reform of the two tier Local Government system as well as the continuing reduction in financial support from Central Government to Local Government. He also asked that each of the recommendations within the report be voted on separately.

Councillor Sparling, in seconding the amendment, referred to the long term impact on generations to come of Council decisions relating to Climate Change and that it would be appropriate therefore, in this context, to devote some extra time to

scrutinise the implications of the proposals, in order to agree on the most effective way forward.

Councillor M. Mitchell, in commending the amendment to Council, stated that an unspecific review did not provide the foresight needed to make a major change in working practices and that the implications of the policy needed to be identified and explored. An immediate scrutiny of the proposal was preferable to seeking a review of the arrangements in twelve months.

Councillor Bialyk, as Leader, stated that his group would not be supporting the amendment.

### **The amendment was put to the vote and LOST.**

The Leader, in presenting the motion, stated that the essence of the proposal was to respond as expeditiously and collaboratively as possible to the emergency presented by Climate Change. Working with key institutions across the city such as the University of Exeter, Stagecoach, Great Western Railways, Devon County Council and the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital was far more effective than an appointment of a single dedicated officer within the City Council. A time commitment by the Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Director of Transformation to work with their counterparts in these institutions would be a key driver to the success of Net Zero Exeter 2030 and both were of the highest calibre for these roles having built up an extensive network throughout the city's organisations to support this shared agenda. This commitment would demonstrate the Council's focus on delivering the Net Zero programme with experienced leadership working with a coalition of partners.

The Council, through its Emergency Budget in response to the Covid Pandemic, had allocated significant funding to the Net Zero Exeter 2030 programme, and its financial commitment to Net Zero was more than many authorities who had not made similar financial allocations. He emphasised that the Council was equally committed to maintaining the existing level of its services. There would be regular reports back to Members on the progress of ECF initiatives and a report on the City Development Fund would be presented to the Executive in the New Year. The Leader stated that no decisions affecting the City Council would be made without first reporting to the Council and he offered an invitation for opposition Members to meet with the Chief Executive & Growth Director for a briefing in their respective groups on the detail of the proposal as well as in relation to the Development Fund.

Councillor D. Moore, as a co-leader of an opposition group referring to the seven points she had raised at Executive, welcomed the proposal to establish a carbon budget for the city, as did the rest of the Progressive Group and asked for confirmation that, once the carbon budget was created, the data would be provided on the amount of carbon reduction achieved and for a focus on the most urgent needs as set out in the base line required to achieve Net Zero. She re-iterated the concerns expressed by Councillor Jobson in the financial and governance arrangements of ECF and felt that there was a lack of transparency and scrutiny given to the proposal. She also stated that it was unfortunate that issues around the City Development Fund were only emerging at this point, even though they had been in the public domain for a while. She stated that it was unclear if the secondments would focus on investment or the Liveable Exeter Board.

Referring to the Development Fund, the 10 priority actions in the Net Zero Action Plan 2030 set out in the Executive report and the seven points of specific concern she had raised at that meeting she felt that, rather than rushing ahead, the earlier amendment calling for scrutiny was appropriate. Working with other institutions was

the correct way forward to combine resources to achieve Net Zero but, as with other authorities, it should be the Council itself that uses its status to undertake the leadership role to ensure transparency and inclusive action on the Climate Emergency through the creation, for example, of a working group to ensure rigour and transparency. She remained concerned with the proposal to transfer management arrangements as she felt that the secondments would not be a practical arrangement and that outsourcing the Council's leadership, responsibilities and power to a private company was inappropriate.

Councillor Leadbetter, as the leader of an opposition group, stated that, whilst his group continued to support the work of the Chief Executive & Growth Director on Net Zero Exeter 2030, their stance was that this work should be done in-house. The group supported progressing the work as quickly as possible but that an element of scrutiny should be incorporated initially. He thanked the Leader for the reassurances he had given and stated that the city was well placed to progress with the Net Zero Action Plan. He accepted the offer to meet with the Chief Executive & Growth Director for a briefing.

Councillor K. Mitchell, as a co-leader of an opposition group, referred to a motion presented to Council in February 2019 seeking a Climate Emergency declaration, the wording of which had not been supported on the grounds of requiring more detail. He also confirmed that his group would also accept the offer of a briefing from the Chief Executive & Growth Director.

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- the proposed structure for ECF will provide the necessary technical data required as part of achieving Net Zero 2030 as the City Council had limited capacity in this regard;
- the City Council's solar array and battery storage facility at Marsh Barton would ultimately power electric refuse vehicles, three of which had been ordered, the first in the south west;
- the Net Zero goal was embedded in the Corporate Plan as a key strategic priority and was also included on the Council's website. The senior staff secondments would provide strong leadership to scrutinize and mediate the city wide programme;
- the Council was committed to its own house building programme through Exeter City Living which, together with building to Passivhaus standards and the retrofit programme of private housing, would meet the requirements of the low carbon agenda and contribute to the Net Zero Exeter 2030 goal; and
- progress would be reported back to the Council through Scrutiny Committees, Executive and Council.

The Leader, in summarising, stated that the 10 key priority actions identified in the Net Zero Exeter Plan 2030 could only be achieved through a collaborative approach. The secondment of the Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Director of Transformation to ECF would help ensure the effective delivery of the Net Zero Exeter 2030 goals as both had strong connections with the private and public sector, community groups and voluntary organisations. He referred to the potential for further collaboration at a regional level, through the retrofit programme being brought forward by Live West in conjunction with other local authorities. He would ensure that the progress of Net Zero Exeter 2030 was fully reported to Members and that the concerns some had raised would be addressed.

He commended the recommendations to Council.

The Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following separate votes on each, all recommendations were CARRIED, recommendation 4 being CARRIED unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned at 7.47 pm and re-convened at 8.00 pm.**

In respect of **Minute No. 117 (The Exeter Article 4 Direction : Houses in Multiple Occupancy – Response to a recent petition)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried unanimously.

In respect of **Minute No. 118 (Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2021/22 – Quarter 2)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried.

In respect of **Minute No.119 (2021/22 General Fund Capital Monitoring Statement – Quarter 2)** the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 120 (2021/22 HRA Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 2)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried unanimously.

In respect of **Minute No. 121 (Treasury Management 2021/22 Half Year Update)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried unanimously.

In respect of **Minute No. 122 (Update to Procurement and Contract Procedures)**, the Leader moved and Councillor Wright seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Executive held on 30 November 2021 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR K. MITCHELL UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 6**

Councillor K. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor J Moore, moved a Notice of Motion in the following terms (he set out an amendment to the Motion in bold, in view of the extension by the Government of the consultation period, which had been announced after he had submitted the original Motion):-

“Exeter City Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment and further recognises that discrimination does still occur today.

This Council recognises and opposes the ongoing harm the practice of so-called conversion therapy brings to LGBT+ people.

This Council calls on the Government to follow through on the promises made, not just in this year's Queen's Speech, but for the past three years, to outlaw the practise of so-called conversion therapy.

**This Council notes the ongoing Government consultation on this matter and calls on the Government to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy within England, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms.**

Furthermore this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling and advocacy our local groups provide to members of the LGBT+ Community.

This Council recognises the excellent work done by local people and organisations to support the LGBT+ community here in Exeter, and extends its thanks and support to them.”

In presenting his Motion, Councillor K. Mitchell, as a co-leader of an opposition group, hoped that the Motion would have cross party support. He highlighted that he had been fortunate to have had strong support from his family in respect of his sexuality, but he was aware that many were not so fortunate. He referred to a national LGBT+ survey, where one in 20 respondents had been pressurised into undertaking conversion therapy. This figure was higher in the 18 to 24 year old age group, and in respect of the Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) community and disabled individuals. One in five Trans people had also been pressurised. He stated that being a member of the LGBT+ community was not an illness and did not need a cure and that this harmful practice should cease. Exeter was a tolerant city, which welcomed diversity and embraced individuality.

Councillor Hannaford, in supporting the Motion, welcomed the opportunity to lobby for this much needed change. He stated that many LGBT+ people felt lonely, isolated and pressurised to change and that supporting the Motion would show solidarity. He chaired Devon County Council's Children's Scrutiny Committee and it had become evident that during lockdown many LGBT+ people had felt isolated, particularly if they did not have a supportive family. He referred to the historical mistreatment of this group which was akin to torture and had included practices of electric shock treatment and poisoning. Most people's gender identify was in place very early on in their lives, and a binary choice was not the only way that people could live their lives. It was important to foster and develop a culture and society that supports and respects diversity and to allow people to come to terms with their sexual identity.

Councillor Hannaford also referenced the additional biased discrimination of gay men and the BAME community and the legacy of the British Empire across the world, where there had previously been more tolerant systems in regard to different sexual identities. Equal age of consent had only been recognised in more recent times as had the recognition of the LGBT+ status within the Armed Forces. Despite the Council having Mayors and Lord Mayors for centuries, it was only a few years ago that he had become the Council's first openly LGBT+ Lord Mayor in the city's history. He was also pleased to note that there was a far more tolerant attitude to this issue amongst young people.

Councillor Ghusain, as Portfolio Holder for Communities and Culture, in supporting the Motion, referred to the Government's proposal to introduce legislation to act on the practice of conversion therapy. She referred to the extension of the Government's consultation to 4 February 2022, after which a draft bill would be prepared and also to the "Safe to Be Me: A Global Equality Conference", which would take place in June 2022, to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first official London Pride marches.

Councillor Morse, in supporting the Motion, referred to her conversations with her own teenage children and their friends, and would be disappointed to think that they would have to be persuaded or made to change in any way.

Councillor D. Moore, as a co-leader of an opposition group, thanked Councillor K. Mitchell for the Motion and for Councillor Ghusain for raising the issues around consultation. She hoped that this Motion could form part of a formal submission to the consultation and for the Government's reply to be included on the Council's web site.

Councillor Leadbetter, as the leader of an opposition group, stated that his group would be supporting the Motion.

Councillor J. Moore, in seconding the Motion, thanked Councillor K. Mitchell for bringing forward the Motion and for his and Councillor Hannaford's explanation about how damaging conversion abuse can be.

Councillor K. Mitchell, in summarising, thanked Members for their comments and support. He added that, whilst Councillor Hannaford had been the first openly gay Lord Mayor in the city, he said that he had been the first openly gay Deputy Lord Mayor, and also to have his husband as his consort. He commended the Motion to Council.

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and CARRIED unanimously, the views of this Council would be submitted in response to the consultation.

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**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER  
NO. 8**

The Lord Mayor reported that no questions had been received from Members.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.28 pm)

Chair