



Council

Wednesday 25 November 2020

At 6:00pm

NOTE: Under the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held remotely via Skype for Business.

If you are a member of the press or public and wish to view the meeting, please visit Derby City Council's [YouTube channel](#) at the advertised start time. For further enquiries, please email committee@derby.gov.uk.

Members:

The Mayor, Councillor Frank Harwood, and Councillors Anderson, Ashburner, Atwal, Barker, Bettany, Carr, Care, Cooper, Dhindsa, Eldret, Evans, Froggatt, Graves Jr., Graves Sr., Hassall, Hezelgrave, A Holmes, M Holmes, Hudson, Hussain, Ingall, J Khan, S Khan, Kus, Lind, Marshall, McCristal, Naitta, Nawaz, Pattison, Pearce, Peatfield, A Pegg, P Pegg, Potter, Poulter, Repton, Roulstone, Russell, Sandhu, Shanker, Skelton, Smale, Stanton, Testro, Webb, West, Williams, Willoughby and Wood.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest **Attached**
3. Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 23 September 2020 **Attached**
4. Announcements from the Mayor
5. Statements from members of the Council Cabinet
6. Questions from the Public

	Questioner	Respondent	Summary
A	Nathalie Hollingworth	Councillor Webb	Coronavirus measures in schools and public spaces
B	Elizabeth James	Councillor Poulter	NHS primary care patients in Sinfon
C	Alison Martin	Councillor M Holmes	Markeaton Park replacement trees
D	Maggie Hird	Councillor Williams	Access to online learning
E	Emily Lonsdale	Councillor Williams	Free School Meals
F	Nathalie Hollingworth	Councillor Webb	Availability of Covid-19 and blood tests from chemists
G	Emily Lonsdale	Councillor Williams	IT equipment for disadvantaged students

7. Questions relating to Derbyshire Fire Authority or Derby Homes

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| 8. | Questions from non-Council Cabinet members | |
| 9. | Minute extract 19/20 of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 5 November 2020 (Boat and Boatmen Licensing) | Attached |
| 10. | Minute extract 73/20 of the Council Cabinet meeting held on 11 November 2020 (Manufacturing Research Centre Midlands) | Attached |
| 11. | Audit and Accounts Committee, Annual Report 2019-20 | Attached |
| 12. | Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20 | Attached |
| 13. | Constitutional Appointments | Attached |
| 14. | Notice of Motion: Free school meals | |

Moved by Councillor Lind, seconded by Councillor Atwal:

Council notes with concern:

1. *That the number of pupils entitled to Free School Meals is rising fast, and currently nearly 9000 across the city.*
2. *That children who are hungry are less able to learn and thrive at school.*
3. *That child hunger is a long-term issue. It won't go away when we beat this virus.*

Council recognises the cross-party support shown for ensuring that no child goes to bed hungry and the commitment to provide support for the expansion of Free school meals over the Christmas period and the need to expand this further.

Council therefore supports the calls by the Child Food Poverty Taskforce, supported by Marcus Rashford and many leading food suppliers and producers, which calls for:

1. *The expansion of Free School Meals provision to every child whose family is in receipt of Universal Credit or equivalent, or with a low income and no recourse to public funds.*
2. *That provision be made for food vouchers to cover school holidays and periods of lockdown for all families in receipt of Universal Credit or with a low income and no recourse to public funds.*
3. *That Healthy Start vouchers should be increased in value to £4.25, and expanded to be made available to all those in receipt of Universal Credit or with a low income and no recourse to public funds.*

Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Secretary of State for Health and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask them to implement the recommendations of the Child Food Poverty Taskforce outlined above, as a matter of urgency.

Council further resolves to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry and therefore will ensure that Free School Meals will continue to be provided in Derby City for every school holiday and during any lockdown period for every child whose family is in receipt of Universal Credit, or equivalent, or with a low income and no recourse to public funds, until the Government takes the above action. This will be funded from COVID-related Government grants or Council reserves.

15. Notice of Motion: Hidden disabilities

Moved by Councillor Willoughby, seconded by Councillor Naitta:

Council agrees to formally recognise the Hidden Disability Sunflower scheme.

Before Covid-19 the sunflower lanyards, badges and wristbands could be seen on some train services and national airports as a way of recognising that an individual has a hidden disability, who may find particular situations/environments difficult and stressful, causing them to act differently.

Since Covid-19, in some areas the sunflower has become a recognised symbol of support for those with hidden disabilities.

Covid-19 has created a wide range of barriers for those with hidden disabilities. For example, they may face stigma when they are not seen to be wearing a face covering in public settings despite being exempt due to current government guidance.

By recognising this symbol and promoting what it means we can make life easier for those who otherwise might face stigma in the years ahead.

Council agrees to:

- 1. Formally recognise the Hidden Disabilities sunflower;*
- 2. Actively promote what it stands for and its importance in breaking stigma;*
- 3. Help promote the Hidden Disabilities sunflower to local businesses and encourage them to formally look at recognising it*
- 4. Promote that the Council offices are Hidden Disability friendly and promote the sunflower on its buildings, web site and social media so people can identify the Council as Hidden Disability friendly.*

16. Notice of Motion: Accessible toilets and hidden disabilities

Moved by Councillor Naitta, seconded by Councillor Lind:

This Council notes that:

- The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible public toilets to install new signage. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with 'invisible*

- illnesses' such as Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.*
- There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them.*
- These signs have two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words Accessible Toilet and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'.*
- The Government has decided recently that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people – known as Changing Places – will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues, in England from 2021.*

Council resolves to:

- 1. Ensure that accessible toilets on Council premises bear these signs.*
- 2. Ask town and district centre retailers and leisure outlets to do likewise with their accessible public toilets.*
- 3. Seek advice from the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK and with the Disability Equality Hub on the information and training we should provide to Council Staff members. This is so they understand these illnesses and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them.*
- 4. Ensure that any Changing Places toilets in our buildings are properly signposted for visitors.*
- 5. Ensure that the requirement to provide new Changing Place toilets is included within the Council's future plans for new public buildings in the city.*

17. Notice of Motion: Responsible use of fireworks

Moved by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Kus:

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise.

The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period. Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress,

depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level. The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or local authority officers to pinpoint locations and take action.

A licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held so they can focus on locations and incidents elsewhere, there is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals about fireworks phobia. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as local wildlife.

Presently the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals. Further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and a number of things can be done to improve the situation for animals and people by:

- Introducing a limit on the public use of fireworks on or close to specific dates and times*
- Tightening restrictions on the sale of fireworks in the run up to events throughout the year*
- Reducing the maximum noise level of fireworks sold to the public, ensuring they are labelled accurately*
- Licensing all public firework displays – and ensuring displays are better advertised to the public.*

This Council resolves:

- 1. To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be timely advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.*
- 2. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.*
- 3. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.*
- 4. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.*

18. Notice of motion: Redundancy payments

Moved by Councillor A W Graves, seconded by Councillor A J Graves:

Council recognises under the Equality Act, that all employees are protected from age discrimination in all aspects of their employment, including recruitment, employment terms and conditions, promotions and

transfers, training and dismissals.

Yet despite this, one of our own policies appears to treat younger people within this organisation unfavourably because of their age.

Our own redundancy policy states that those with more than two years service will receive the following:

Under 21 – 0.5 weeks salary per year of employment

22 to 44 – 1 weeks salary per year of employment

45 to 65 – 1.5 weeks salary per year of employment

Council therefore requests that the Personnel Committee review the existing redundancy policy and consider whether redundancy payments for all employees should be equalised.

19. Notice of Motion: Free School Meals

Moved by Councillor Shanker, seconded by Councillor Russell

Council was saddened that the decision of the government not to provide free school meals during non-term time has caused untold distress to many families here in Derby.

Council wishes to place on record our thanks to the local voluntary groups, businesses and residents who have stepped up to provide hot meals to many Derby families and fill the void left by the callous decision made by Conservatives in Whitehall.

Council is dismayed that despite the vast majority of Councillors indicating support for a voucher scheme here in Derby, the Conservative administration refused to listen until after half-term and only when it was clear their government colleagues were headed, yet again, for another U-turn.

Following a successful campaign, we welcome the commitment from the Cabinet Member that all children entitled to free school meals will receive vouchers for the Christmas holidays.

Now that additional funding is being provided by government Council resolves to commit to providing free school meal vouchers for all school holidays during 2021. This will bring some much-needed comfort to families across the city and help ensure “no child sleeps hungry” in Derby. Council also recognises the excellent work being done by the Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance and resolves to continue to support them so that struggling families who do not qualify for free school meals can also access support.

Council further resolves to create a Child Poverty Commission with representatives from across the public and private sectors and include a nomination from each political party and an independent councillor representative. This forum will provide the collaboration and strong

leadership necessary to tackle one of the biggest challenges of our generation and help every child in Derby.

20. **Notice of Motion: Recognition of the independence of the Republic of Artsakh**

Moved by Councillor Shanker, seconded by Councillor Skelton

At the Full Council Meeting on the 21st November 2018, a Motion was unanimously passed to formally recognise the Armenian Genocide in 1915. The motion included the statement that:

“Council believes that the formal act of recognition of these events as Genocide is an essential part of the process of ensuring that such acts are not forgotten and not repeated”.

The Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) is an ethnically Armenian region in the South Caucasus that has a long and storied past and holds a cherished place in the Armenian people’s history and culture. During the period of the Soviet Union, Artsakh was an autonomous region subject to the administration of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Armenian minority living under Azerbaijani administration was repeatedly subjected to massacres and ethnic cleansings, therefore, their security and right to life are not guaranteed in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Artsakh has never been a part of independent Azerbaijan, as on 10 December 1991 a referendum of the people of Artsakh overwhelmingly voted for independence in full compliance with the norms of international law and existing domestic legislation and according to the same legal basis as Azerbaijan and other states of the Former Soviet Union. Earlier this year on the 27 September, Azerbaijan, with full political and military support of Turkey, initiated large-scale military aggression against the Republic of Artsakh, targeting civilian population and civilian infrastructure with banned weaponry.

Taking into account the reports of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe (ECRI) and the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) stating that the official position of Azerbaijan is to promote a “negative climate of opinion” about Armenian people.

Azerbaijan’s recent actions further emphasise the existential threat to the people of Artsakh and make it imperative for the international community to actively work toward neutralizing it, including through the recognition of the Artsakh people’s right to self-determination and their right to live freely and with dignity in their historic homeland,

Council resolves:

- *To recognise the independence of the Republic of Artsakh and*

acknowledge the rights of the Armenian people to self-determination, and their right to live freely and with dignity in their historic homeland;

- *To write to the Foreign Secretary informing him of this Motion being resolved at Council and ask that the UK Government also recognises the independence of the Republic of Artsakh.*



Emily Feenan
Monitoring Officer