Council

15th January, 2026

PRESENT:-

Councillor Payne, Lord Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillor Coward, Deputy Lord Mayor (D. C.);
Councillors Beeson, Belcher, Bridges, Burton, Byrne, Cahill, Chambers, A. Collinson, M. Collinson, Dad, Dearing, Dolman, Drake-Davis, Fudge, Gardiner, Grozav, Haines, Hale, Harper, Harrison, Hatcher, Healand, Henry, Herrera-Richmond, Ieronimo, Kassim, Keal, Kemp, Kennett, Matthews, McCobb, McMurray, T. Neal, Nicola, North, Petrini, Preston, Pritchard, Quinn, Randall, Robinson, Ross, Singh, Smith, A. Thompson, D. Thompson, Tock, Wareing, Wilkinson and Wood.

APOLOGIES:-

Councillors Conner, Hofman, Jepmond, K. Neal and Pantelakis.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
	COMMEMORATIONS The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of former Lady Mayoress Marjorie Bowd, wife of former Lord Mayor Alfred Bowd, and those that had died, or were still missing, in the recent Withernsea sea front tragedy, namely Sarah and Grace Keeling and Mark Ratcliffe. She offered the condolences of the Chamber to their families and friends. She then referred to the recent sad death of Honorary Alderman and former Leader of the City Council, Simone Butterworth. She offered the condolences of the Chamber to her families and friends. Councillors Ross, Hale, Nicola, Honorary Alderman Inglis, Councillor McCobb and the Lord Mayor offered their personal condolences. Those present then stood in silent tribute.	
80	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in minute 89, insofar as he was a shareholder in the New Clarence Public House, Hull.	Monitoring Officer

	Councillor Harper declared a personal interest in minute 91, insofar as he worked for Hull Active Sport. Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in minute 91, insofar as she was a trustee of Child Dynamics.	
81	**MINUTES** **Agreed** – That the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council, held at 10.00 a.m. on 20th November, 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Lord Mayor.	Monitoring Officer
82	**MINUTES** **Agreed** – That the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council, held at 3.00 p.m. on 20th November, 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Lord Mayor.	Monitoring Officer
83	**COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS** The Monitoring Officer reported that there had been no changes to the composition of the political groups within the City Council. **Agreed** – That the report be noted.	Monitoring Officer
84	**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES** **Moved by Councillor Herrera-Richmond and seconded by Councillor Hale:** That Councillor Grozav replaces Councillor Matthews on the Corporate Parenting Panel. **Motion carried.**	Monitoring Officer
NON-EXEMPT ITEMS		
85	**PETITIONS** The Monitoring Officer reported that she had not	Monitoring Officer

	received any petitions that needed to be considered by the City Council. **Agreed** – That the report be noted.	
86	**LEADER'S STATEMENT** Councillor Ross, the Leader of the City Council, began his statement and commented on Hull's inclusion in National Geographic's top 25 places to visit in 2026; the Peel Street Project; the 'one punch' facility in Princes Quay; the recent Northern Powerhouse Rail announcement; Karl Turner MP, and the performance of the current Labour Government. Councillor Hale replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on the current situations regarding Venezuela, Greenland, Columbia and Ukraine; Hull's inclusion in National Geographic's top 25 places to visit in 2026; the Peel Street Project; the recent Northern Powerhouse Rail announcement; the future of the Chapman Street Bridge, and the commemoration on Hessle Road of the 58th Anniversary of the sinking of the fishing trawler St. Romanus. Councillor Wareing began by paying tribute to Mark Ratcliffe who sadly lost his life during the recent Withernsea seafront tragedy. He then replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on the Renee Nicola Good shooting in Minneapolis; the Government's U-turn on digital ID cards; removal of flags from across the City; trade union matters; Lord Mandelson's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, and the recent Northern Powerhouse Rail announcement. **Agreed** – That the Leader's Statement, and the responses to that statement, be noted.	
87	**QUESTIONS (WITH WRITTEN NOTICE) TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHERS** **Councillor Bridges asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, given previous issues with delays, including in**	

	Southcoates Ward, reassure Members that the newly appointed road-marking contractor, WJ North, would work within agreed hours and timescales, and provide the level of service, timeliness and value for money that residents expect? The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that he was happy to reassure Members that contractors would be in line with the points Councillor Bridges outlined in her question. That was made easier by the road surveys carried out last year and a larger work programme which was being drawn up. That allowed works to be planned further into the future and become more efficient. **Councillor Harper asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could give an overview to what is being done by the Council to try and bring retailers back into the City Centre to complement the on-going new infrastructure? The request came partly on the back of the proposed new location for Marks and Spencer on the Kingswood site. He felt, like many residents of the City, that greater efforts should be made to attract major retailers back into the City Centre. The City Centre needed to have parity with other top rated UK cities and not end up an empty shell.** The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that, in short, if the Council continued to see the war on business from the Chancellor, he was not sure what firms would be left to trade in the country, let alone Hull. As well as the 80,000 jobs in hospitality that had been lost due to the Labour budget, the Office of National Statistics had said there were 74,000 jobs in retail over the last year due to rising employment costs such as National Insurance rises. That was why former Labour Party member and business adviser to Andy Burnham, Sacha Law, bitterly regretted calling the Labour the party of business and growth in the run up to the 2024 General Election. What the Chancellor should be doing now was listening to Daisy Cooper and the Liberal Democrats who were pushing for a reduction in small business rate paid by shops, and other tax rises such as National Insurance, so businesses	

	could invest in growth and new jobs, so people would have more money in their pockets to spend. However, in Hull, the Liberal Democrats would continue to improve the economic vitality of the City Centre, by bringing forward major schemes such as the East Bank Urban Village; the former Staples site; Albion Square; the Paragon site behind St. Stephen's, and other sites identified in the new City Centre Vision. Delivery of those projects would increase Hull's attractiveness to the Boards of retailers who, ultimately, looked at the potential balance sheets to decide if their investment in to a new store would generate the required returns. He had also instructed Officers to attend the Grow Retail Conference in London this Spring, the UK's largest retail property event, so Hull could begin reaching out to retailers about opportunities in the City. Hull was only a city of 275,000, compared to Leeds with over 800,000, so it was important that the City got out there and met retailers and operators rather than expecting them to turn up on the City's doorstep. The Council would use its annual attendance at the UK's Retail Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds to speak to retailers. Last year a conversation there with Marks and Spencer revealed that their current Business Plan for Hull did not extend beyond their new full range store on Kingswood, referred to in Councillor Harper's question. **Councillor Randall asked if the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure could inform the Chamber of the Visit England Tourism Awards which HEY! Volunteering have been nominated for?** The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure replied that the HEY! Volunteers had been shortlisted for Visit England's Tourism Superstar Award 2026. That prestigious national award sought out and recognised champions working in tourism who provided the most memorable experiences for visitors, as well as showcasing the variety and quality of England's tourism offer and destinations. The volunteers at HEY did, in his opinion, an outstanding job in promoting the City. Winners were chosen by a national public vote. The public would be able to vote for the HEY Volunteers on Visit England's website from early February when the competition officially opened. Everyone was able to	

	cast a vote. He was sure all Councillors would want to vote themselves and share the poll with residents to make sure HEY! Volunteers won. Short films of all the finalists, carrying out their duties in their tourism roles and promoting their local destinations, were to be shown on Visit England's website to support with voting. Voting would run until the end of the English Tourism Week which, in 2026, took place from 13th to 22nd March. The winner would be announced at the Visit England Awards for Excellence 2026 event in the summer. **Councillor Bridges asked if the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Community Safety could, given that the Blue Badge assessment process was contracted out, and that Full Council unanimously agreed a motion in November, 2025, to strengthen monitoring of the Blue Badge scheme, explain what oversight was now in place to ensure assessments were timely, accurate and fair, and what action would be taken when residents experienced poor service?** The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Community Safety replied that, following the meeting in November, Officers were setting up a review of the process, from start to finish, to ensure it was simple and that residents understood how and when to apply for a blue badge. Officers were to report the findings and make recommendations to him and other Portfolio Holders as they completed their review. He, along with colleagues, would have regular check-ins on the progress that was being made. He was also to share that information with any Members in the Chamber that had an interest. **Councillor Wood asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could, given in March, 2024, the Portfolio Holder visited a meeting of Chanterlands Avenue Residents and Traders Association (CHARTS) to outline his role and the opportunities for the area that would arise from the Community High Street Funding. At that meeting the Portfolio Holder told residents to be ambitious in their vision for the area and assured them that they would be fully involved in the process. Subsequently in September, CHARTS submitted 'A Vision for Chanterlands Avenue' to the Council. CHARTS was keen to**	

	work in partnership to maximise benefits through joint bids/match funding and joint initiatives, explain to the Chamber why that positive approach by residents had been ignored by the Council, and why the Design Plan by the Major Projects Team bore little or no relation to the residents' ambitious vision document? The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the Community High Street Project Team had taken on board the vision document provided by CHARTS and reviewed those suggestions in line with project objectives and achievable outcomes. The mini masterplan for the area was created with input from various stakeholders and in consultation with Ward Members. It took into account the work which CHARTS undertook in its vision document. Considerable public consultation to identify the priorities for residents, businesses, and shoppers in and around the Chanterlands Avenue Local Centre had been undertaken. Feedback was received from over 430 people. The feedback and responses to the consultation formed the basis of the masterplan documents and there were a number of common themes which aligned with CHARTS' vision document. Discussions were continuing with other service areas such as Highways and Streetscene to address issues raised on the 20mph speed limit and street lighting. A street survey was to be commissioned to identify planting opportunities for rainwater gardens down Chanterlands Avenue in partnership with Hull Flood Team; Living with Water, and Yorkshire Water. Bespoke business support for Chanterlands Avenue traders had been secured with the HEY Growth Hub who had agreed for Chanterlands Avenue to be one of the two pilot sites in Hull which would receive training, support and mentorship through the programme. He hoped his reply provided reassurance. The ideas submitted by CHARTS had not been ignored, but integrated into a much wider conversation about the Avenues. He was sure what was to be delivered would give Chanterlands Avenue and its community the much needed lift everyone wished to see. **Councillor Preston asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could update the Chamber on the A63 works and what could**	

	be expected in the coming weeks? The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that National Highways, who were overseeing the process, had told the Council that the final underpass works, such as surfacing, lines and signing, would be completed within the next month. That would allow the underpass to open to traffic. Construction would then switch to the tie-ins to the slip roads. That would require the slip lanes on and off the A63 to be closed for around 4 weeks. **Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, given his discussions with Council Officers it was his understanding that Drypool Bridge would need to be closed again in 2026 for further works to be completed, inform the Chamber of the approximate date of the next closure and how long it was expected to be closed for?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that, as was publicly announced last year, Drypool Bridge was to close for the next phase of repair work in mid to late May for a period of 8 weeks, subject to any unforeseen circumstances. **Councillor A. Collinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could, given she welcomed the news that the Council has purchased the former Alan Wood building to develop new Council owned flats, explain what this would mean for the residents of Hull and the Council's provision of Council housing?** The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the ambition for the building would see it converted to self-contained residential units. Once completed the (up to) 16 flats would be let as normal Council homes to households on the Council's Housing Register. Officers were currently progressing the acquisition with a view to exchanging contracts before April. The conversion would provide a much-needed boost to affordable housing stock in the City and provide a Council housing offer in a part of the City where there was potentially lower quality private rented stock. It also	

	complemented the Priority Streets frontage improvement works in the area to combine multiple interventions to improve the housing market in this area. He believed that would also be a positive use for the building, given local objections to the proposed 32 bed House in Multiple Occupation by a local developer. **Councillor Wood to asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, given she was pleased to be appointed to the Hull and East Riding Joint Local Access Forum in September and have since attended two meetings of this statutory body, explain why the Rights of Way Improvement Plan expired in 2019 and had not been refreshed and updated? Among other issues that important document should include, were plans for the repair of the riverbank and re-opening of Public Footpath Number 11.** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that why nothing happened when the Rights of Way Improvement Plan expired in 2019, was a question for Councillor Wood's Labour colleagues. The Liberal Democrat Administration was in the process of starting public consultation on the Plan, and items like Footpath Number 11, later in the year. **Councillor Keal asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, as he had previously informed the Chamber of the "Moorsbus service", provide an update on that service and its offer to the residents of Hull?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that the Moorsbus, service M1, was reintroduced thanks by Hull City Council and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, through the Bus Service Improvement Plan grant funding. In total 2,249 passengers boarded the M1, which ran every Saturday and Bank Holiday from the beginning of May through to the end of September. 1,317 of those were from Hull and the East Riding. Following its successful return, both Councils, working closely with the Moorsbus Community Interest Company, were exploring options for 2026. The service allowed those that didn't run a car the opportunity to get out and explore the moors in a cheap and sustainable manner.	

	Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, given on 26th November, 2025, Hull CC News reported that the Bus Gate on Queens Dock Avenue would be suspended, while road markings would remain, road signs would advise motorists of the suspension, explain to Members and residents why those signs were not in place at the time of submitting this question? The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that the signs were not in place as the Bus Gate was not operational at this point in time. Motorists could travel in both directions along that stretch of road. **Councillor Wilkinson asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure a supplementary question, could the Portfolio Holder explain or find out why the signs weren't there? The road sign said, 'Bus Gate' and the sign on the lamp post said, 'Bus Gate'. Nowhere did it say that the Bus Gate was suspended unless you read the newspaper which most motorists won't before driving down Queens Dock Avenue.** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that he would have it checked. **Councillor Cahill asked the Deputy Leader of the City Council, with the Government ending the Household Support Fund, what will happen to the free school meals schemes and help for the elderly, which is paid for from that fund?** The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied that the Labour Government announced just before Christmas that the Household Support Fund would cease to exist. In Hull, the Administration used those funds to support, as Councillor Cahill said, free school meals, warm hubs and other initiatives across the City. The Government had said that there would be a new fund called the Crisis Resilience Fund. At this point in time the Administration had yet to see clear details on what that money could be used for; the criteria that would be used, or how much this Council would receive, raising doubts on	

	those projects. She had asked that the Government make clear its plans urgently, so that this Council could plan how to best support its residents. Councillor Cahill may be aware that the Leader of the Council had written to the Government setting out concerns that the new fund wouldn't be able to be used for free school meals in the school holidays. Given how many families relied on the funding, she hoped the Government heard that message and put the interests of families first. **Councillor Wood asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, following a constituent who lived on Chanterlands Avenue in Avenue Ward had a disabled son and had now been waiting for over two years for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be implemented outside her home to facilitate a disabled parking bay, explain why there was a huge backlog in the processing of TROs and what was being done to remedy the situation?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that he'd spoken with Officers, and there didn't appear to be any outstanding actions on Chanterlands Avenue. However, he was keen to see this matter addressed. Councillor Wood did not need to wait until Full Council to raise concerns like this. People would get a much better service if Councillor Wood contacted him directly as soon as she was made aware. The Lord Mayor explained that Councillor Healand would receive a written answer to his question: "Will the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure detail what the City can expect from hosting Rugby League's Betfred World Cup Challenge later this year?". **Councillor Nicola asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could provide, for the benefit of the Chamber, a definition of a "Bus Gate"; information regarding the legal status of a "Bus Gate", and why so little information about using the "Bus Gate" installed during the recent repair works to Drypool Bridge, was provided to local people?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that a bus gate was a short section of road	

	through which only buses and other authorised vehicles could pass. Its status was established through the legal process of a Traffic Regulation Order or Temporary Traffic Regulation Order. The bus gate operation was referenced in press releases prior to works starting; advertised on the Council website; promoted to partner organisations, and referenced in responses to numerous media enquiries. All the Council's social media outlets referenced where additional information could be found. Maps and videos showing the gate's operation were shared. The legally required signage was installed and additional signage, black writing on yellow background, was also provided on the approaches. **Councillor Hatcher asked if the Leader of the City Council could, following Victoria Dock being granted money from the Crime Prevention Fund for security fencing recently, make clear his commitment to that Fund in the coming budget and what that funding could mean for residents?** The Leader of the City Council replied that the Liberal Democrats had brought in the Crime Prevention Fund to help residents to take basic steps to make their communities safer for all. The Liberal Democrats remained very committed to that fund and had allocated £800,000 over the next three years to support community organisations with their projects to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour. The projects funded helped to ensure feelings of safety. The primary focus of the Crime Prevention Fund was engaging, enabling and empowering communities, allowing them to develop community safety solutions, such as the Peel Street Gym that was funded through the scheme. It provided grants to those coming up with creative solutions to ensure everyone could live in safe and welcoming neighbourhoods. The Cabinet Sub-Committee for Crime Prevention Grants worked through all the applications and did its best to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants so that future submissions could be improved. He looked forward to seeing Wards, of all colours, submitting applications over the coming years to benefit their residents. **Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could**	

	inform the Chamber if Hull City Council would be taking up the new powers the Labour Government was granting Local Authorities in issuing parking fines to cars parked on grass verges and pavements, which was currently a Police matter? The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that, as this headline announcement was made just a week ago, and the Council still hadn't received guidance from the Department for Transport, he was unable to inform the Chamber of any actions, though he welcomed it as a policy announcement. When the guidance was received, he would be more than happy to let Members know. He hoped that the guidance would also come with any necessary funds to be able to implement the change. **Councillor Kemp asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could, after thanking the Officer and Portfolio Holder for the roll out of an extensive footpath resurfacing programme in his Ward, including areas like Ark Royal, lay out what works were programmed/had been completed for footpath maintenance across his Ward, Longhill and Bilton Grange, and the wider East Hull community?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that Councillor Kemp's Ward had now seen five schemes completed. Those were Welland Road, Frome Road, Ellinghan Close, Barham Road and Kennet Road. There were three more schemes planned in the Longhill and Bilton Grange Ward which were Waveney Road and two schemes on Ridgestone Avenue. For the wider East Hull community four schemes had been completed; three were in progress, and seven schemes were planned. That showed a clear commitment to the highways of all parts of the City. He thanked Members for their proactive work with Officers of the Council to highlight issues on the network so that they could be addressed. **Councillor Henry asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could, while welcoming the news that the demolition of the Boothferry flats has been agreed by the Council,**	

	explain what the residents in the area should expect with that work, and what were the initial plans for the redevelopment of the area? The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that he knew the project was something close to Councillors Henry and Ieronimo's heart, and also the residents in the Ward. The appointment of a demolition contractor was an important milestone in the Pickering Regeneration Area. It was expected that a start on site would commence next month. The residents could expect to see the site become an active construction site. It would start with internal strip outs, with demolition of all three blocks complete by the summer. Once completed, and based on extensive consultation with the community last year, initial masterplans set out a potential of 300 plus homes on the site, with the aim of 150 or more being new Council homes. **Councillor Robinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services could, bearing in mind that all Elected Members were Corporate Parents, a role too often overlooked, and that she had attended some events before Christmas to meet with looked after children, inform the Chamber what those activities were and how important the Corporate Parent role really was?** The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that she would argue that one of the most vital roles working for the Council was as a corporate parent. It was Members' duty to ensure that children in their care and care leavers had the same opportunities, safety, and love that any parent or guardian would want for their children. At the heart of corporate parenting was a simple rule, was this good enough for my child, driving the question everyone must ask of every policy and service: "Would this be good enough for my own child?". That principle moved the Council beyond mere service delivery to a culture of high aspirations, where it didn't just "care for" children but truly "cared about" them. In November, 2025, the Council saw a huge variety of events to host the young people who were leaving care. Some of those events also acted as an opportunity for the Council to get to know those young people as Corporate Parents. She knew Councillor Robinson and some of the support staff in	

	the Group Office attended such events. The sessions included football and karting, right the way through to a day in the life of a care leaver. Those events helped showcase how much of a role all Council Officers and Councillors had to play. She urge everyone to take the role seriously. **Councillor Byrne asked if the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Community Safety could, while he welcomed the news of the opening of the community shop in the North Carr Ward, which was already proving to be a great success and incredibly helpful to residents, detail the purpose of that facility and what it could offer, so other Members could understand how great this was for the community?** The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Community Safety replied and thanked Councillor Byrne and those in the area for the work they had done to help to make this happen. The Social Supermarket was like a regular small supermarket in terms of shopping experience, but the prices were vastly reduced. The products were quality goods sourced from major brands who were unable to market them normally due to issues such as mislabelling or overstocking. That prevented food waste. To promote healthy eating, all fruit; veg., and bread cost only 20p or less. A full basket of goods would typically cost a shopper only 30% of the normal retail price. The Café, located alongside the shop, operated a policy of kids always ate for free, regardless of family size. For adult members, local people on low incomes, full cooked meals in the cafe cost £1.50. The opening of the Community Shop had created 12 paid permanent jobs, the bulk of which had gone to local residents. The Community Shop Group was to operate the site for ten years, providing the Social Supermarket, plus a community cafe and a 'community hub' that offered a variety of enrichment activities such as mental wellbeing courses and employability skills. The gym and Boxing Academy had been retained on site as well. The Group hoped to do further positive work in the area such as developing a community growing space involving children from the primary school opposite, as well as continuing to work with other community groups locally. The only cost to the Council had been allowing them to use the site for a peppercorn rent. He was really pleased that the	

	organisation had chosen to come to Hull. **Councillor Haines asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could, as he had noticed a decision record about the Debenhams building, detail what the initial plans for this site were?** The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that planning permission had been secured to convert the former Debenhams store into a mix of 178 one and two bed apartments on the upper floors and, following discussions with the Council and local Ward Members, to provide four commercial units on the ground floor. The applicant and developer for the scheme, the DBG Group, was previously involved with the conversion of the former Lloyds Bank and the Shirethorn Centre, adjacent to the former Debenhams store. They had confirmed they would like to be on site in the next few months, and that the conversion would take between 18 to 24 months to complete. That development was another example of the Council working with the private sector to deliver homes across the City and bring vacant buildings back into a beneficial use. **Councillor Coward asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services could detail what the "Willowfield" project would mean for the Special Educational Needs and Disability offer in the City?** The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that she knew that this was an issue close to Councillor Coward's heart. Willowfield Special School would provide 125 much-needed places for Hull children with severe learning difficulties. It would allow the Council to reduce high needs revenue spend on providing bespoke packages for those pupils in other settings. The importance of Willowfield was demonstrated by the Authority's commitment of £7m of capital funding to deliver the scheme, although the scheme was initially due to be fully funded by the Government. That was part of an overall suite of schemes aiming to promote inclusion in mainstream schools and allowing the Council to meet its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities sufficiency obligation by creating additional places in	

	the City. Residents would hopefully be attending a drop-in session today at Frederick Holmes School. That was an opportunity to view and comment on the latest site designs ahead of the Planning Pre-Application meeting next week. The consultation would remain open until 26th January, 2026. **Councillor Robinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could inform the Chamber of the latest developments with the Priory Road footbridge, and what the residents in the Derringham Ward could expect?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that Councillors Robinson and Payne had regularly brought this to the attention of the Council. He was glad to say progress was being made. The Council was currently in consultation with Network Rail and other key stakeholders regarding the planned demolition and replacement of the bridge. The structure was currently within acceptable parameters to allow the bridge to remain open to pedestrians, but the Council would be working towards its replacement in the near future. **Councillor Henry asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could update the Chamber on the actions being taken to address pavement parking?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that this issue was something he and Councillor Henry regularly talked about. As he had said in reply to an earlier question, there had been the headline announcement from the Government but with no detail as to what the powers might be. At that time there wasn't any further clarification on what was a Council matter and what was a Police matter; who had authority over what, and no mention of who would be meeting the cost of using those new powers. He hoped that the Government would publish that guidance soon, so that the Council could see how it could be implemented in Hull. **Councillor Henry asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services could update the Chamber on the latest situation with the Casey Review into child exploitation and its implications for Hull?**	

	The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that to give the review its full title it was “The National Audit on Group-Based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”. It was published in June, 2025, by Baroness Louise Casey. The audit identified systemic failures across agencies, including victims not being believed; failure of agencies to intervene, and inadequate recording of data. 12 key recommendations were made to Government and accepted. Whilst responses to most of the recommendations required changes in law or further direction from other Government Working Groups and Enquiries, Hull had already set up a Task and Finish Group in anticipation of any future actions. Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership already had in place a robust approach to exploitation including active contextual safeguarding, operational and strategic subgroups. They sat within the Health and Social Care Partnership arrangements, which co-ordinated contextual safeguarding activity across Hull. The Group had been chaired consistently, for over two years, by Hull City Council’s Head of Early Help and Prevention, and a Detective Superintendent from Humberside Police. Safeguarding structures were in place across all agencies in Hull to protect children from sexual harm and exploitation. Further, multi-agency pathways were in place to safeguard children identified through organised crime groups as well as cross-border working. Following the national audit, an overarching national policing response to group-based child sexual exploitation had been established called Operation Beaconport. As part of Operation Beaconport, Humberside Police was in the process of reviewing any local cases and providing all requested information to inform that operation. Hull remained fully committed to driving forward the recommendations and ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements across all agencies. **Agreed** – That the questions and answers be received.	
88	**AREA COMMITTEE STRUCTURE** The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which explained that at its meeting on 15th May, 2025,	Monitoring Officer

	Council resolved to conduct a full and comprehensive review of the Area Committee structure. The Working Group would consist of cross-party Elected Members, and be supported by Officers. The purpose of the report was to enable Council to consider changes to its Area Committee structure following the review conducted by the cross-party Working Group during 2025. The report set out the background and rationale for moving from the current structure of three Area Committees to six Area Committees. The proposed changes built on the work undertaken since 2023. The changes aimed to improve local accountability, strengthen community engagement, and ensure alignment between local priorities, decision making and action in the City's neighbourhoods across the Council and its partners. The recommendations contained within the report had been developed and agreed by the cross-party Working Group. **Moved by Councillor McCobb and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson:** a) That the six Area Committees, identified in Appendix 1 of the report, be appointed with the composition (Wards/number of seats) as detailed; b) that the revised structure be implemented in accordance with the meeting schedule set out at Appendix 2 and as detailed in Section 7 of the report, comprising formal constituted and informal non constituted meetings, and will come into effect from February, 2026; c) that, where necessary, to execute a decision, a formal/constituted meeting of an Area Committee can be called at the time and date reserved for an informal/non constituted meeting; d) that the three existing Chairs of Area Committees remain appointed as Chairs of their new Area Committees until the Annual General Meeting of the full Council in May, 2026, and that the new Area Committees elect a Chair at their first meeting and subsequently report those appointments back to Council, as detailed in Appendix 1/Option 1 of the report;	

	e) that formal/constituted meetings take place at the Guildhall, and where it is Members' preference, and subject to suitable venues, informal/non-constituted meetings take place at venues in the locality; f) that the cross-party Working Group be expanded to include the Chairs of the revised Area Committees and that this group meets in June, 2026, to review the content considered by the meetings, and late 2026/early 2027, to review the meeting cycle; g) that each Area Committee will determine its formal title at its first meeting in accordance with Section 4.75 of Part B of the Constitution, and h) that the required constitutional amendments, to bring the decision of the Council into effect, be implemented accordingly. Councillor McMurray also spoke on the motion. Councillor McCobb then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
89	**HULL LOCAL HERITAGE LIST** (Councillor Hale declared a personal interest in minute 89, insofar as he was a shareholder in the New Clarence Public House, Hull.) The Head of Planning submitted a report which provided a review of the public consultation response to the Hull Local Heritage List. The report proposed the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for areas which were located outside of the current Conservation Areas (Appendix B of the report referred). The report also provided an update on additions to the Local List. Policy 16(4) of the Local Plan advised that where evidence supported it, Article 4 Directions removing permitted development rights would be introduced to preserve the character of an area. Evidence had	Executive Director of Regeneration

	been previously presented to the Planning Committee on 16th May, 2023, on the need for additional planning constraints to preserve all entries featured on the Local List. The evidence set out within the report, pursuant to the completion of two rounds of public consultation, supported the removal of permitted development rights for demolition of properties identified on the Local List. However, it was not considered sufficient at this stage to exclude external alteration or change of use of the identified buildings. The Monitoring Officer submitted the comments of the Planning Committee and Cabinet. **Moved by Councillor Drake-Davis and seconded by Councillor Hatcher:** a) that the adoption of an Article 4 Direction for the establishment of a Local List removing permitted development rights for demolition covering all entries on the A4 list, attached as Appendix B of the report, be confirmed, and b) that, at this stage, it is not proposed that a Local List Article 4 Direction be progressed to remove permitted development rights for (i) change of use, and (ii) external alteration, be noted. Councillors Herrera-Richmond, Hale and Ross also spoke on the motion. Councillor Drake-Davis then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
	ADJOURNMENT The meeting stood adjourned at Noon and reconvened at 12.30 p.m.	
90	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Hale as an amended motion:** Council views with dismay the actions of Donald	Chief Executive

	Trump and his US administration in militarily intervening in Venezuela in breach of accepted international law and Articles 1 and 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, and in breach of the sovereignty of Venezuela. Council notes with dismay that there has been no formal condemnation by the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, of this suspected illegal action of the US Government. The Prime Minister has repeatedly espoused his commitment to international law yet appears to indicate that he would instruct the UK representative to vote against condemnation of US action at any UN resolution. Council notes with support, the comments made by the Liberal Democrat Leader, Sir Ed Davey, who has unequivocally condemned this “illegal” action whilst clearly denouncing the “brutal and illegitimate dictator”, Nicholas Maduro, and his violent regime. While Council recognises the importance of maintaining ties with Washington DC, this cannot come at the expense of ignoring international law and further damaging our credibility on the world stage. Council believes that the actions of the US President to kidnap a foreign national is a threat to the international convention of respecting another counties sovereignty. As a City of Sanctuary that welcomes and protects refugees and asylum seekers from many parts of the world this council recognises that many here will now fear the potential ramifications that this act may have on their security and that of their relatives and friends. It is important that this extrajudicial kidnapping and military aggression is condemned for what it is. Council further believes these actions and the related statement from the US President appear to reinforce the words of Emily Thornbury MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee, “It’s not really about drugs, it’s about oil. If Trump was so worried about drugs from South America, why did he last month pardon former Honduras President Hernandez, who’d been sentenced to 45 years by a US court for importing cocaine. Trump and friends have said it themselves. We’re “getting back the oil that was stolen”.	

	Council further believes that the appropriation of a Country's oil assets, by another Country is a blatant example of neo-colonialism, and will be seized upon by other powers who have expressed expansionist ambitions and who could use this as a green light to exert control of their neighbours in breach of their sovereignty and self-determination. Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Foreign Secretary, and the local MPs, setting out the detail of this motion and asking them to support the upholding of international law, and to speak out against these abuses. Sources: https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/emily-thornberry-trumps-venezuela-strikes-36495907 https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/jan/05/venezuela-attack-embolden-china-russia-uk-labour-emily-thornberry https://hull.cityofsanctuary.org/ https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/03/is-there-any-legal-justification-for-the-us-attack-on-venezuela-trump-maduro https://news.sky.com/story/colombia-cuba-mexico-greenland-or-iran-where-could-trump-strike-next-13490602 https://news.sky.com/story/venezuela-live-trump-maduro-court-capture-strikes-colombia-greenland-latest-13489831 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/05/trump-must-give-up-fantasies-about-annexation-says-greenland-pm https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4qgvwxp08o https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2026/jan/05/uk-venezuela-response-starmer-trump-labour-conservatives-latest-news-updates https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1D4EBisc73/ https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16kLLkEBvm/ Councillors Burton, Herrera-Richmond, Grozav, McMurray and Singh also spoke on the motion. Councillor Wilkinson then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	

91	**NOTICE OF MOTION** (Councillor Harper declared a personal interest in minute 91, insofar as he worked for Hull Active Sport. Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in minute 91, insofar as she was a trustee of Child Dynamics.) **Moved by Councillor Harper and seconded by Councillor Grozav:** Council notes that studies indicate that nearly 70% of children drop out of organised sports by the age of 13. For many young athletes the joy of sports is being overshadowed by intense pressure, overwhelming schedules, and a growing emphasis on competition over fun. When fun disappears, kids simply stop wanting to play. Council also notes that these studies reveal that youth sports today are more intense than ever, with children being pushed into early specialisation, rigorous training regimens and relentless competition. Council further notes that youth sports have also become increasingly expensive and as costs rise participation declines, making sports an exclusive activity for those who can afford it. This economic barrier disproportionately affects children in underprivileged communities, widening the gap in sports participation. Council recognises that another factor driving kids away from sports is the growing pressure to specialise early. Instead of playing multiple sports throughout the year, many young athletes are pushed to focus on a single sport at a young age. It is also impossible to ignore the role of technology in the decline of youth sports. The rise of social media, video games and other digital entertainment means that young people today have more alternatives to outdoor play than ever before. Where previous generations spent hours playing outside, today's kids may be more inclined to stay inside engaging in virtual worlds, rather than physical activity.	Councillor Pritchard/ Councillor Tock/ Executive Director of Corporate Resources

	Council believes that youth sports should be about growth, fun and camaraderie, not just competition and pressure. If we, as corporate parents, want to prevent the continued decline in participation we must rethink the way we approach youth athletics. If we continue to emphasise winning over enjoyment, competition over play and pressure over passion, more and more young athletes will continue to walk away. We must take action to make youth sports fun again. Council therefore calls upon the Portfolio Holder to work with interested parties; such as myself; to look at ways to address this serious issue and commit to working together with local partners. Council resolves to ask the Executive to establish a Task and Finish Group within the appropriate Scrutiny Commission in order to develop a practical strategy for getting more children and young people across Hull into an active lifestyle, which should include measurable aims and outcomes for a range of age groups, as well as a deadline by which the strategy should be published and be ready for implementation. Council agrees to ask the Executive to support actions taken to make youth sports fun again. Sources: A Decline in Sports Participation: Why More and More Adolescents Are Quitting | by Ryan Sparks | Medium Boys are playing less sports than before. What can we do? - American Institute for Boys and Men Participation Trends - State of Play 2023 - Project Play Physical education, physical activity and school sport - PE Scholar Physical education, physical activity and sport in schools Councillors Hale, Cahill, Smith, Ross, Herrera-Richmond, Tock, Randall, Wilkinson, Singh, Hatcher, Keal, Harrison and the Lord Mayor also spoke on the motion.	

	Councillor Harper then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
92	**NOTICE OF MOTION** With the agreement of the Chamber, Councillor Wareing withdrew his motion regarding the recent events in Venezuela.	
93	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Henry and seconded by Councillor Randall as an amended motion:** Council believes that mental health care should be preventative, accessible and delivered within the community, with early help available before individuals reach crisis point. Hull, like many cities, faces growing mental health demand alongside long waiting times, increasing pressure on NHS services, emergency responses, and Council-supported services. Evidence from across England demonstrates that Community Mental Health hubs, offering open-access, non-clinical support, help people access assistance earlier, reduce stigma, and ease pressure on statutory services. These hubs already operate successfully in other parts of the country, including community wellbeing hubs in York and Stockton and early-support and recovery hubs in major urban centres, providing drop-in support, peer engagement, and clear pathways into care. An example of such a hub is the former station house at Trafford Park, which is being refurbished to become a health hub, providing a range of therapy and health programmes, including acupuncture and yoga. This is a collaboration involving Northern Rail, Network Rail, and Transport for Greater Manchester, among others. Funding for this project is a joint effort involving Northern Rail, Network Rail, and Transport for Greater Manchester. The broader Trafford Community Hubs programme, however, has been shown to deliver significant value for money, with an independent study estimating a return on investment of between £5.22 and £17.71	Councillor Ross/ Councillor Dad/ Executive Director of Corporate Resources

	in potential savings for every £1 invested. Hull Paragon Station is a high-footfall, central and highly accessible location, used daily by residents, commuters, students, and visitors, and is already a focal point for those experiencing vulnerability, isolation, or distress. Council believes that early intervention in mental health is both compassionate and cost-effective, reducing the likelihood of crisis, hospitalisation, or long-term support needs. A Community Mental Health Support Hub at Hull Paragon Station could: o Offer a visible, non-stigmatising first point of contact for mental health support. o Align with Council's priorities of prevention, local solutions, and partnership working. o Complement, rather than duplicate, existing NHS and voluntary sector provision across Hull. Council resolves to request that the Executive ask Officers to write to NHS partners to request they assess the feasibility of opening a Community Mental Health Support Hub at Hull Paragon Station with appropriate support from the Council and for Officers to update Cabinet on the outcome of these discussions in due course. Officers should ask partners to explore low-cost, preventative delivery models, including: o Drop-in mental health and wellbeing support. o Peer support and social prescribing. o Clear signposting into existing services. o To identify if there are any external funding and partnership opportunities and assess if there are models of funding and operation elsewhere in the country. Council further resolves to ask the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to show commitment to achieving this objective by seed funding it in their forthcoming budget, to kickstart the identification of further external partnership funding.	

	Sources: https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/02/urgent-referrals-of-children-in-mental-health-crisis-in-england-rise https://www.tewv.nhs.uk/community-wellbeing-hubs-and-support-centres/ https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-no-referral-early-support-hubs-needed-nationwide-help-tackle-rise-mental-health https://hubofhope.co.uk/ https://www.railadvent.co.uk/2023/10/greater-manchesters-trafford-park-station-house-to-become-health-hub.html Councillors Burton, McMurray, the Lord Mayor, Ross, Fudge, Hatcher and Dolman also spoke on the motion. Councillor Henry then exercised her right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
94	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Ieronimo and seconded by Councillor Dad as an amended motion:** Council notes that the Government are due to lay out their plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail. Council further notes that this project isn't new and has been in discussions for over a decade. This Council Chamber has called for investment in the railway infrastructure serving the Hull area over many years and our asks of Government remains the same. Council believes that the Northern Powerhouse Rail project needs to make a clear commitment to Hull and the rail lines that serve this City. Council further believes that the City needs to be treated on parity with other cities in the region and not left behind like so many Government projects have done to Hull in the past. This includes confirming the timetable for the delivery of the rail electrification plan for the region.	Councillor Ross/ Councillor Hale/ Councillor Wareing/ Chief Executive

	Council therefore resolves to request that the Leader of the Council writes to Tom Riordan, the Treasury's new Northern "envoy", and to the Secretary of State for Transport, to make clear the case for the City and to seek confirmation that Hull will get the fair and proper funding in to the rail infrastructure serving the City. Council also resolves to request that the Leader of the Council, Group Leaders and the Chief Executive write to the three Hull Labour MPs seeking their support in making this case. Sources: https://www.ft.com/content/d62f766a-3302-44f0-895f-aef83d21957b https://www.highwaysmagazine.co.uk/news/dft/alexander-47bn-local-transport-fantasy-money Councillors Ross, Wilkinson, Burton and Drake-Davis also spoke on the motion. Councillor Ieronimo then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	

Start: 10.15 a.m.
Finish: 2.50 p.m.