Council

20th November, 2025

(10.00 a.m.)

PRESENT:-

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

APOLOGIES:-

Councillors Byrne, Hatcher, Pantelakis, Petrini and Preston.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
66	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Councillor M. Collinson declared a personal interest in minute 76, insofar as one of his children was in receipt of a blue badge for parking concessions for disabled people. Councillor Kemp declared a personal interest in minute 76, insofar as one of his children was in receipt of a blue badge for parking concessions for disabled people.	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships
67	**MINUTES** **Agreed** – That the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council, held on 18th September, 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Lord Mayor.	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships
68	**COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS** The Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance reported that, following Councillor North's resignation from the Labour Group to sit as an Independent Councillor, the political make-up of	

	the Council was: 29 Liberal Democrat; 23 Labour; 3 Independent Group, and 2 Independent Councillors. **Agreed** – That the report be noted.	
69	**NOTICE OF MOTION** That, with the agreement of the Chamber, Councillor Wareing withdrew his motion regarding compulsory ID Cards.	
70	**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES** **Moved by Councillor Dolman and seconded by Councillor Herrera-Richmond:** Councillor Kennett to replace Councillor Dearing on the Licensing Committee. Councillor D. Thompson to replace Councillor Conner on the Pickering and Ferens Homes Trust. Matt Jukes (Chief Executive) be appointed as a Director of the Humber Freeport Company Limited. **Motion carried.**	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships
71	**REFERRAL FROM THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS PANEL** The Director of Legal Services and Partnerships submitted minute 4 of the Independent Members Appointments Panel, when that Panel had undertaken interviews for Independent Members to serve on Council Committees. The Panel had made recommendations to Council regarding the Audit Committee and the Independent Remuneration Panel. **Moved by Councillor Dolman and seconded by Councillor Herrera-Richmond:** a) That Honorary Alderman Colin Inglis be appointed as the Independent Member on the Council's Audit Committee, and that he also be appointed Chair of that Committee in place of Councillor K. Neal;	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

	b) that Honorary Alderman John Fareham and Mrs. Naureen Asif be appointed to the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, and c) that a rolling programme of recruitment be implemented to ensure sufficient Independent Members can be appointed to Council Committees where required. **Motion carried.**	
NON-EXEMPT ITEMS		
72	**PETITIONS** The Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance reported that she had not received any petitions that needed to be considered by the City Council. **Agreed** – That the report be noted.	
73	**LEADER'S STATEMENT** Councillor Ross, the Leader of the City Council, began his statement and commented on Remembrance Sunday; Hull KR's success in the recent Rugby League Grand Final; Hull being included in the top 25 places to visit in 2026; the repairs to Drypool Bridge; Chapman Street Bridge; the Corporate Peer Challenge Team's visit to the Council following the inspection last year; the electrification of the rail line between Hull and Selby; the recent round table discussions looking at islamophobia in Hull; the Remarkable East Yorkshire Tourism Awards; the Business Awards; the local organisations, Pride; Street Angels, and the Outkast Panda Crew, who had recently received the King's Award; the progress in revising the Hull Local Plan, and the City Centre Christmas Lights switch on which was taking place later that day. Councillor Hale replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on Remembrance Day; TransPennine Express' installation at Hull's Transport Interchange regarding Remembrance Day; the Honorary Freedom of the City to be presented to Messrs Coyle and Hudgell later in the day; Hull being included in the top 25 places to visit	

	in 2026; Labour involvement in the many City Centre projects that had helped put Hull on the map; perceived delays in revising the Hull Local Plan; houses in multiple occupation; Chapman Street Bridge, and the recent round table discussions looking at islamophobia in Hull. Councillor Wareing replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on the recent sporting achievements across the City; the work of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Honorary Freedom of the City to be presented to Messrs Coyle and Hudgell later in the day; the recent immigration reforms announced by the Government, and the future direction of the Labour Party. **Agreed** – That the Leader's Statement, and the responses to that statement, be noted.	
74	**QUESTIONS (WITH WRITTEN NOTICE) TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHERS** **Councillor Conner asked the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, to expand the useable space on Alderman Kneeshaw Playing Fields, the former running track would need to be infilled, at a cost £34,500. This would hugely benefit Barham FC who now had 18 teams playing from there. Prior to the Parks budget being reprofiled, Independent Group Councillors for Longhill and Bilton Ward had asked for this to be funded from the £350,000 which was allocated to Alderman Kneeshaw Playing Fields. Now that those funds had been moved to various parks in other parts of the City, could the Portfolio Holder make a commitment to contribute £24,500 to the cost, alongside £10,000 already sourced, in order that those much needed works could go ahead?** The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure replied that he was happy to review any business plan Councillor Conner wished to send him which required capital funding. That could be looked at in line with previous requests made for the Park and would be a long-term vision which could be stuck to,	

	this time. He looked forward to reading Councillor Conner's case in the next few weeks. **Councillor McMurray asked the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, what would be the impact of the delay to the Local Plan under the Liberal Democrats on preventing the proliferation of landlords designating properties as Airbnbs to avoid having to make planning applications for a House in Multiple Occupation?** The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that he knew the concerns Councillor McMurray had had over the number of houses in multiple occupation (HiMOs) in his Ward. Whether people said there had been a delay or not, the original timescales the Labour Group had been given for the Local Plan were not summer 2026 or after the elections in 2026. That document was supposed to be out far earlier. Without it there was a particular issue, a loophole, with regard to Airbnbs. People were trying to get around the current planning rules by letting their property as an Airbnb, possibly having been knocked back a couple of times by the Planners for being HiMOs. The one place in the country where you could do something about this issue was in London. London had special powers and a special category, which he thought was C5, where you still needed planning permission to regularly let your property as an Airbnb. Otherwise, it would drive a coach and horses through a lot of the planning processes in the City. If people didn't like a result they would just say they were letting their property as an Airbnb and get around the Articles regarding the registration of small HiMOs in their areas. If people were allowed to say that it was an Airbnb and not a HiMO, there would be a real difficulty. He had asked about Supplementary Planning Guidance the other day, but by the time you had that in place, the Council may have got to the date of the refresh of the Local Plan. It was a real issue for lots of communities. Indeed, someone had tried to let out portacabins behind the New Theatre as Airbnbs which he had campaigned against. There was a broader issue that lots of residential streets, usually in the poorer areas of the City would be being let as Airbnbs to find a way around planning rules. That was something the Chamber needed to take action on with all party support.	

	Councillor Cahill asked if the Chair of the North Area Committee would outline to the Chamber what the latest developments were with the Area Governance Working Group; what current proposals were being worked through, and when those proposals would be made available to the Chamber? The Chair of the North Area Committee and thanked the Working Party that had been looking at this matter, where there had been a great degree of consensus and cross-party working. He also thanked the Elected Members that had completed the survey during the summer which had been commissioned by the Working Party. There had been a consensus reached across the Working Party that it would like to move to a model of six Area Committees across the City, and their make-up had been agreed. The Working Party was now looking at the meeting cycle for those Area Committees on that model. He hoped that the proposals would be considered at the January, 2026, meeting of Council, when both main groups had had time to consider them. Once again, he thanked everyone who had played a constructive part in trying to move this matter forward. **Councillor Conner asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could confirm that Drypool Bridge would definitely open at the end of November?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that it was still the case that Drypool Bridge would be reopened at the end of the month. **Councillor Herrera-Richmond asked if the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group would join him in welcoming the Selby Street Safety Scheme which Labour Councillors in the St. Andrew's and Docklands Ward had been fighting for since the foot bridge was removed, and which was only possible due to a large contribution to the scheme from the St. Andrew's and Docklands Ward budget?** The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that Councillor Herrera-Richmond was absolutely right. There was an agreement, before that 'blue	

	bridge' was removed, that there would be a safety scheme on Selby Street. The Council removed the bridge and there was no safety scheme. That led to a very dangerous crossing of Selby Street where people rat run for the speed and particularly when the level crossing was down on St. George's Road. The Labour Group had effectively pushed the Council who had said there was the money in a budget for some years. That begged the question why the scheme had not been done as it had been promised to be done at the time. the biggest issue, and he was incensed, was to then see Councillor Ieronimo, stood there claiming the credit for a scheme that the Liberal Democrats had nothing to do with. Interestingly, two weeks before, he didn't see Councillor Ieronimo at Drypool Bridge defending the Council's actions. He saw an Officer put up for that bad news. When there had been a good news story, which Councillor Ieronimo had nothing to do with, he suddenly saw Councillor Ieronimo stood there. That was not good politics. By all means, claim your successes, but play it fair. What he had also asked, was why did that scheme not come from central funds as promised before the bridge was removed? That was a failure of governance. In a sense, due to the fact that probably, the St. Andrew's and Docklands Ward had a greater Community Initiatives Budget because of the size of the Ward and its deprivation, the Ward had the money to pay for the scheme. **Councillor Randall asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment, as the 'Nature Trail' was recently launched and was a Liberal Democrat budget commitment, could the Portfolio Holder detail what that scheme involved and the positive impacts it could have on residents and their lives?** The Portfolio Holder for Environment replied that the commitment to create a nature trail through the City had come from the Liberal Democrat Administration in their budget commitments. It had really come together over the past year. He thanked Councillor Dad as it had been her idea initially. He was absolutely delighted to formally open the first section of Hull's nature trail around Holderness Drain back in October. It had been great to see Councillors there from near-by Wards and lots of local families. The first section showed the level of investment and	

	thought that would go into creating a nature trail with new paths when needed; new seating; new trees, and information boards. That could all be expected as the nature trail was rolled out across the City. There would be many more sections of the trail formally opened in the near future; connected parks; lesser known green spaces, and historic walking routes joined into an accessible network for residents right across the City. It would create an educational and wellbeing resource that would be a real legacy for decades to come. If you looked at the Council's website, there was a brand new page dedicated to the nature trail which included the Citywide map of the 26 plus miles of routes that would make up the full trail. That had been shared with Elected Members and would continue to be so as new sections were formally opened. He thanked the Officers and the many, many partners who had worked with the Council on the nature trail for doing such a fantastic job in delivering for the City. **Councillor Conner asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could advise the Chamber when the repairs to Chapman Street Bridge would commence and the timeframe for completion?** The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that he had received a briefing on the Chapman Street Bridge earlier in the week from specialist engineers who had been on site assessing the decay. The report said that the decay was known about as far back as 2020, and that it was unsafe at present for vehicles. Repairing that bridge remained a priority, along with fixing the decay in Drypool Bridge, North Bridge and other structures that had been mentioned. **Councillor Hofman asked the Deputy Leader of the City Council, in July, 2021, in relation to increasing major project costs, the Deputy Leader of the Council criticised Labour stating that "We have to be more prudent with schemes like this. Lessons must be learned.". Now it had been revealed that the Maritime Project was an astonishing £17.5m overspent, and yet again delayed, could the Deputy Leader of the Council explain why her own prudence and learning of lessons had not been applied in this instance?**	

	The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied that lessons had been learnt from the Maritime Museums Project. Indeed, when the Liberal Democrats came into Office, the full scale of the problem was made clear. As an Administration it held off on calls for extra spending, though it was correct the budget was higher now than when it started. It was important to remember, though, that in large part that reflected the scheme itself had changed and evolved from the one first envisaged. **Councillor A. Collinson thanked the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure for the recent upgrade to the Costello Stadium running track. Last month saw the start of the development of the fields at Costello, so could the Portfolio Holder lay out to the Chamber what was involved with this work and what it would mean for sports and education in Hull?** The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure replied that the works were extensive on the Park. His appreciation went to neighbours and park users for understanding the need for those works. The ambitious project on the Costello site sought to provide sporting facilities including a fully fenced 3G multi-sports pitch line-marked for five, seven, nine and 11-aside football, as well as for rugby league. It would also provide two 20-person team changing areas; a medical room, and an accessible toilet/shower area. It would be protected by CCTV and intruder alarms, and included associated overflow car parking. This was a project which involved partners such as Hull College and others. Therefore, during term time weekdays, 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., the facilities would be used by Hull College. At all other times the facilities would be available to book by clubs and the public. The facilities would provide a much needed, high quality, all year round, community use sporting facility. It would complement the wider capital investment at the Costello Stadium running track. The works were expected to be complete in Autumn next year. **Councillor Conner asked if the Deputy Leader of the City Council could confirm that the decision to carry out the repairs to the Eastmount Centre sports building and the installation of a new gym floor were still in the budget 2026/27, and would the work begin next year as she has previously**	

	stated? The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied that, subject to contract, the work would take place next year. **Councillor Nicola asked the Leader of the City Council, in October, the Labour Government announced it was giving a £27 million loan to help fund a low-carbon underground heating system in Hull. The Hull District Heat Network was to provide heat, generated from waste to buildings across the City Centre. Would the Leader of the Council thank the Labour Government for that loan which would have a direct impact on the Council's target of reducing its reliance on fossil fuels?** The Leader of the City Council replied that, yes, he would. Although, a grant would have been better than a loan. **Councillor Healand asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development would update the Chamber on the house building programme in the City and what that would mean for the social housing stock available, namely those developments at Isledane and Dane Park?** The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that he was aware that Councillor Healand's interest in housing went back many years, having been the Portfolio Holder in the past. Back in January the Liberal Democrat Cabinet adopted the Housing Growth Plan which set a target of building 840 new Council homes over the next six years. Isledane and Dane Park were delivering 133 of those homes. They were the most energy efficient homes the Council would have, utilising both solar power and air source heat pumps. By doing this, the Council could reduce the running costs for its residents allowing them to save money through that innovative design. It would also go some way to meeting the Council's housing needs in the City and making lives cheaper and easier for those that live in those homes. **Councillor Conner asked the Portfolio Holder for**	

	Transport and Infrastructure, at 7.45 a.m., on 13th November, 2025, an Air Ambulance had to be scrambled to pick up a young girl who had been knocked over, in a serious road traffic collision, on the dual carriageway between the Diadem roundabout and the Shannon Road turning, at the Ganstead roundabout, on Holderness High Road. The exact area where that happened had been the subject of requests, since the start of this year, from the Deputy Head of Thanet School, and Independent Councillors from the Longhill and Bilton Ward, who's residents crossed there every day to access the school, to alter the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, exceeding the speed limit and travelling too fast for the conditions were assigned by Police Officers as contributing to 27% of fatal collisions in 2022, as well as 14% of collisions in which a serious injury occurred and 12% of total collisions. That included both 'excessive speed', when the speed limit was exceeded, but also driving or riding within the speed limit when that was too fast for the conditions at the time. For example, in poor weather, poor visibility or high pedestrian activity. Even in good conditions, the difference in stopping distance between 30mph and 35mph was an extra 21 feet or 6.4 metres, more than two car lengths. Given the above, could the Portfolio Holder commit to urgently investigating the situation, with a view to reducing the speed limit along that particular stretch of road, to at least 30mph, if not lower, to take account of children and families needing to cross safely on their way to and from school. The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that his first thoughts were with the girl involved in that appalling incident. He hoped she was recovering. He would request the Highways Team to undertake an assessment of the current speed limit on that section of Holderness Road. **Councillor Wood asked if the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group agreed that the brilliantly organised community cohesion event, 'Run 4 Palestine', on Sunday, 27th July, showcased Hull in a very positive light; demonstrated the best of Hull as a City of**	

	Sanctuary, and utilised Pearson Park, the People's Park, in a perfect way? The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied, and paid tribute to Councillor Wood for her efforts in helping to organise that event. It had been a brilliant spectacle for the City with about 5,000 people in the park that day. They had all been united by one cause, solidarity and humanity. The fact that that event went off without any concerns or trouble in the whole day, was a testament to the organisers but also the people that attended the event. He was disappointed, therefore, that a counter narrative had been established by certain people who were trying to make out that there were issues with that event. Councillor Wood had been right to challenge them in the Pearson Park Trust Meeting. It would appear that one of the complaints was that rubbish had been left. However, the Park Rangers had asked for it to be left there to be collected at a later time. Another complaint was the state of the toilets in Pearson Park which were a disgrace. They were no longer fit for purpose, and needed to be fully refurbished. That would certainly be something that would be in the Labour budget in February, 2026, and hopefully it would receive all party support. Clearly, the Council needed to ensure its parks were adequate for the events that take place in them. What worried him more was that it appeared, and he had taken it up with the Chief Executive, that Officers had been sent to monitor and snoop on the speeches of people at that rally. That was an absolute disgrace. That was not what Council Officers' time should be spent on. He would have shared his speech in advance as he was sure others would have also done. It was a very authoritarian step which he brought to the Chamber. It needed to stop now. The event needed to take place next year. You can't say you were against islamophobia and then send people to monitor a pro-Palestinian event. **Councillor Henry asked if the Portfolio Holder for Environment could lay out the changes being made to recycling services; what they would mean for residents, and the reasoning behind that decision?** The Portfolio Holder for Environment replied that most in the Chamber knew by now that the Council	

	was required to make significant changes to its waste collection over the coming years. There was a real big one coming in next year when the Council would be required to collect food waste from all residential properties on a weekly basis rather than fortnightly. The Liberal Democrat Group had decided to deliver the change to the brown bin collections for households that had them, to make it as easy as possible to transition. The Liberal Democrat Group was already trialling weekly brown bin collections across Hull which members had been informed about. Crucially, the Liberal Democrat Group were also re-invigorating the weekly food caddy collections for households that received it. All households were to receive a new indoor caddy. The first refresh for probably over a decade, and it would likely be taking place in the next two months. Some collection rounds had already been resupplied with new caddies and communications about the service. The presentation and recycling rates on those rounds had instantly shot up. That showed that the Council was ahead of the game in implementing recycling changes. A real, big challenge would be collecting separated food waste and, in many cases dry recycled waste from flats, for the first time. A number of trials were currently taking place across the City to explore the best way to do this for residents in the flats and for the Council to meet its recycling targets. Those trials would continue. He again thanked staff in Streetscene who were conducting the trials; managing new bin and caddy deliveries, and bringing in new staff to put the Council in a good position to implement the changes when required. The Government may be setting the Council targets and asking it to make changes, but the Council was going over and above to make it as easy as possible for all residents in Hull to dispose of and recycle their waste. **Councillor McMurray asked if the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group would join him in congratulating and celebrating five years of the Peel Project, as the impact the Peel Project had had on the community in the Central Ward had been profound?** The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that he would. Obviously, back when it was set up, he was fortunate enough to be in a position of power	

	in the Council, as Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council, and was able to arrange some funding for the project. Yet, that was dwarfed by the amount of significant funding former Councillor Akbar, Councillor Kassim and Councillor McMurray had arranged over a number of years. To be honest about it, not the project had not been happily accepted by every resident of Councillor McMurray's Ward. However, it was the right thing to do, standing by communities and seeking to make a difference. Having had the opportunity to represent that area previously, they had spent money on that park as Ward Councillors. The park was thriving now. It was not just equipment, it was people who organised activities and sport; keeping kids off the streets; making a difference, and getting people into routines. He had said earlier that 'success had many fathers'. Councillor McMurray was one of the 'fathers' of the scheme. He was pleased to see, belatedly, as an election was due, the Liberal Democrats had suddenly seen the benefits of the Peel Street Project, and had given some money. He was sure that organisation would not ever oppose anyone giving it money because it was a good thing. It was good that Members stood by communities trying to make a difference in changing their area for the better. He would happily be at the celebration event, with, he thought, the Leader of the Council as well. He wanted to see many more such projects across the City, taking control of their communities; getting youngsters off the streets, and making a difference for the people of Hull. **Councillor Robinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services would outline the "Supported Internships Programme", and the impact this had on the young people in the City?** The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that Supported Internships offered work experience and training for young adults with an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) who needed workplace experience to prepare for the job market. Participants received support from a job coach and a tutor, with significant time spent in the workplace. The Council's Connexions Service had partnered with various organisations to develop several local programs. Those partnerships included: "Host Businesses" such as ASDA, the City Health Care Partnership and Humberside Police, as well as	

	"Education Providers" such as Wilberforce College, Bishop Burton College, Hull College and East Riding College. Hull had a high participation rate. In June, 2025, 3.5 times more local, young people with an EHCP were on a Supported Internship, compared to the England average. Early data for 2024/25 showed that 50% of Hull Interns found employment immediately after their program. Others were receiving follow-on support or pursuing further education. Intern feedback highlighted significant gains in confidence and self-belief. The Service was working extremely well. She thanked the Officers who were driving the Service forward and for their support of young people. She encouraged all Elected Members to engage with the Service to highlight and share the great work they did. **Councillor Beeson explained that Members had heard in this Chamber previously about concerns around leaf sweeping and gully clearance. Would the Portfolio Holder for Environment inform the Chamber of the works that were being carried out this autumn to address that issue?** The Portfolio Holder for Environment replied that this issue was a real priority for the Liberal Democrat Administration. In its time it had put extra resource into this matter through the 'Love Your Neighbour Scheme' to increases the Council's capacity to clear leaves from pavements through autumn and winter. The service had a number of pre-planned areas that received attention twice during the Autumn period. Those areas were regularly assessed, and priority was given based on level of leaf fall and the potential risks to the public. The Council also received requests for additional cleansing and leaf clearance from both residents and Elected Members. Those requests were assessed on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the need and priority the Council could divert resource or try to programme the works. The 'Love Your Neighbour Scheme' had added vital extra capacity to the Council's leaf clearing activities and gave dedicated weeks to leaf clearance across the City each year. That year over 60,000 metres of pathways were cleared which was a significant increase on previous years. The Administration aspired to offer a similar level of service this autumn and winter. There was also a full and robust gulley	

	cleansing schedule, including a twice year cleansing of gulley hot spot areas. The Administration had also included an extra gulley team in its budget to provide extra capacity. All the gulley cleansing had been completed on schedule. He was always keen to hear from Elected Members about this matter, and would always keep the system under review. **Councillor Wilkinson asked the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, rail connectivity was a central priority under the previous Labour run Council, when the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group represented this Council on the Transport for the North Board. Was the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group concerned that the current Liberal Democrat Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure had not even identified that as a priority now?** The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that he had raised his concerns with both the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Regeneration about the lack of prioritisation of the electrification issue about three or four weeks ago. He was pleased that the Leader of the Council stood up today and said he had written to the Transport Minister about the matter. He thought it was too easy when the Mayor of the Combined Authority had taken the place of Hull City Council and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on the Transport for the North Board, to hide away and say, 'it's not ours, it's yours'. He was sure that was not the intention, but it was possibly the perception. Particularly when the Portfolio Holder attended the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting and said that rail wasn't a priority because it was no longer the Council's responsibility. It clearly was the Council's responsibility. It was an absolute essential for the future of the City that there was connectivity with the other great cities of the North. To not have it as a priority was a mis-step. It was probably not intended, but it was the way it came across. He was pleased to hear that the Council was pushing that agenda. His concern was that there might be some sort of 'rowing back' on electrification. He did raise the matter at the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting, saying he did not want a 'dumbed down' version of electrification. When he attended the unveiling of the poppies at the Hull Interchange,	

	he took the chance to speak to the TransPennine Express and Northern Rail Directors about keeping pushing on the electrification agenda. There needed to be a common cause to ensure all the parties spoke with one voice. It was very much in the Devolution Agreement. Worse still, it didn't even need to be a special project: it was one of the straightest bits of rail in the country; there were no bridges, and no land acquisition was needed. It would be very cheap in the context of rail projects to electrify the line between Hull and Selby. There was no excuse. It could easily be done from a specified maintenance budget, not even a special project. It needed to be pushed. It was absolutely essential. **Councillor Beeson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure would detail what the "Music Cities Convention" was and what it would mean for the City?** The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure replied that he was very pleased to announce that the Sound Diplomacy Music Cities Convention, a premier global event exploring music's role in urban development, would be hosted by Hull from 9th to 11th June, 2026. The Convention united international policymakers, city planners, and industry leaders to discuss how music could drive cultural and economic change. Hosting the convention offered several key benefits for Hull: global recognition: positioned Hull as a leader in regeneration through music and supported its bid to become a UNESCO City of Music by 2030; economic boost: generated tourism and activity for local businesses; networking: connected local talent and organisations with international stakeholders, and legacy**:** built on the 2017 UK City of Culture success. The events next year would be something new to the City. He was really looking forward to unveiling what would be laid on for the City's residents and the benefits it would bring. **Councillor Hofman asked the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development, as more and more people moved to using electric powered vehicles, what was the Council doing to facilitate more accessible charging points for residents, particularly those in terraced properties?**	

	The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that Cabinet had received a briefing on this matter recently. Cabinet had allocated £2.8m of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding to support delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The procurement process for that infrastructure would be launched in a few months' time. Separately, a funding bid for approximately £170,000 was recently submitted to the Energy Savings Trust. That funding would assist residents with cross pavement charging, specifically aimed at residents without off-street parking. **Councillor Dolman thanked the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development for the investment in the Grampian Way development, and asked if the Chamber could be informed of the Community High Streets Programme and what this investment meant for the communities and the City?** The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the Community High Streets Programme was a four-year, £6m initiative designed to revitalise local high streets. The community-led program aimed to understand the issues affecting residents, businesses, and workers to deliver meaningful improvements in the places and the way people wanted. The Council was committed to making those areas safer and more attractive through targeted upgrades. That included bringing vacant units back into use; enhancing public spaces and green areas; improving safety, cleanliness, and accessibility; upgrading shop fronts, and the cultural offer. Research had begun on the first phase of delivery across three areas: East: Barham Road, Holderness Road/Southcoates Lane, and Greenwich Avenue; North: Chanterlands Avenue and Grampian Way, and West: Coltman Street, Anlaby Road, and Gipsyville. He looked forward to the developments taking place and would keep Elected Members informed of progress. **Councillor Harper asked Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, what would be the impact on the Danby Close area in the Sutton Ward, due to the failure of the Liberal Democrats to delay the**	

	Local Plan and to not remove this area as an area for housing Development? The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that the delays in the Local Plan had more to do with local political difficulties in the Sutton Ward than around the benefit and future strategic direction of housing within the City. That delay would have an effect when the Liberal Democrats campaigned and said they would stop it. He did not think they would stop it. The Liberal Democrats had decided to keep the Area Plan and the Local Plan discussions until after the Local Government Elections in 2026. What that possibly meant was that people could put in a proposal in the meantime. If the Liberal Democrats were serious about their objections and concerns, they would have wanted an early update of the Local Plan like the Labour Group. They could have sought to redesignate that land accordingly within that Local Plan. In a sense, it was a failure for the residents of the Sutton Ward and that part of East Hull who may well have foolishly believed the view that the Liberal Democrats were going to stop it. The bigger issue was that it was a failure for everyone. It meant those much needed local planning guidance or restrictions, on other things that Labour wanted in other Wards, such as limitations on Houses in Multiple Occupation/Airbnbs, wouldn't come in earlier. That meant without a lack of retrospective planning rules in this country, anything that went through now would get in under the radar and wouldn't be able to be constrained or stopped. That was failing the City massively by not having the Local Plan prioritised and brought forward. He urged that the Local Plan was provided with the resources to be brought forward as soon as possible so the Council could make the changes to it that all Members in the Chamber wanted to see. That was in terms of land designation/categorisation and changes to make communities more robust from a planning viewpoint. **Agreed** – That the questions and answers be received.	
75	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Bridges and seconded by Councillor Wareing:**	Councillor Ross

Council notes:

- Recent announcements by the Labour Government regarding proposals for a national ID card scheme, with the suggestion that possession of an ID card may become *mandatory for work purposes.*
- That the United Kingdom already has robust systems for verifying a person's right to work through National Insurance (NI) numbers, PAYE systems, and existing employment checks.
- That any national ID card scheme is likely to require substantial public investment in infrastructure, administration, and data management.

Council believes:

- Making ID cards mandatory for employment risks penalising working people and could create unnecessary barriers to entering or remaining in work.
- The introduction of compulsory ID cards is disproportionate. The costs of establishing and maintaining an ID database would divert public funds from essential services such as health, education, and housing.
- There are potential disadvantages, including:
    - Privacy and data security concerns.
    - The potential for exclusion or discrimination against people without easy access to documentation.
    - The risk of "function creep", where ID cards become required for wider aspects of daily life.

Council further notes:

That these proposals stand in stark contrast to the Government's stated mission to "restore trust" in politics, when in practice they risk deepening public suspicion about how personal information is used.

Council resolves:

	1. To ask the Leader to write to the Home Secretary and the Local Government Association expressing this Council's opposition to making ID cards mandatory for work. 2. To call for a full impact assessment, including financial, equality, and privacy implications, before any such policy is pursued. 3. To reaffirm this Council's commitment to inclusion, privacy, and fair access to employment without unnecessary bureaucracy. Sources: Financial Times (2025). *Labour MPs back plan for a universal digital identity card.* https://www.ft.com/content/ca28a2ea-1bf0-44c0-b127-56339284e48d The Guardian (5 June 2025). *Downing Street exploring options for "progressive" UK digital IDs.* https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jun/05/downing-street-exploring-options-for-progressive-uk-digital-ids ESPHR (2023). *Can a National Insurance number be used as proof of right to work?* https://esphr.co.uk/knowledge-hub/can-a-national-insurance-number-be-used-as-proof-of-right-to-work/ History & Policy (2020). *Identity cards in Britain: past experience and policy implications.* https://historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/identity-cards-in-britain-past-experience-and-policy-implications LSE Politics Blog (2025). *The Britcard – progressive or concerning? https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/the-britcard-progressive-or-concerning/* Councillors Hale, Wilkinson, Burton, Smith, Kemp, Haines, Harper, McCobb, McMurray and Conner also spoke on the motion. Councillor Bridges then exercised her right of reply on the motion.	

	Motion carried.	
	ADJOURNMENT The meeting stood adjourned at Noon and reconvened at 12.30 p.m.	
76	**NOTICE OF MOTION** (Councillor M. Collinson declared a personal interest in minute 76, insofar as one of his children was in receipt of a blue badge for parking concessions for disabled people. Councillor Kemp declared a personal interest in minute 76, insofar as one of his children was in receipt of a blue badge for parking concessions for disabled people.) **Moved by Councillor Dearing and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson as an amended motion:** Council notes that Hull City Council's Blue Badge scheme offers vital support for disabled people with mobility challenges or hidden disabilities. It improves accessibility by allowing easier parking near essential destinations, reduces physical strain, and enhances independence by enabling spontaneous travel and daily participation. Additionally, it contributes to better mental health by reducing anxiety and promoting social connection [1,2]. Council also notes that disabled people in Hull do encounter several major barriers when applying for a Blue Badge. These include digital exclusion for those lacking internet access or digital skills, inconsistent requests and complex evidence requirements, and the stressful need for frequent reapplication even for lifelong conditions. Hidden disabilities are often overlooked, requiring applicants to repeatedly justify their need, while a lack of renewal reminders can result in lost support. Limited assistance with applications and inconsistent mobility assessments further contribute to the challenges faced, affecting access, dignity, and independence for many [3,4,5,6,7]. Council acknowledges that its processes, eligibility and evidence criteria align with other authorities and	Chief Executive/ Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

	national guidance, however council believes that more can be done to apply local discretion and innovation in evidence handling. The council accepts that councils have flexibility under DfT guidance to shape their own processes and has a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, to reduce barriers for Hulls disabled residents [8,9,10,11,12]. Council resolves to request that the Executive commission a review into the way in which this Council administers the Blue Badge Scheme for the residents of Hull. This should include considering: • What evidence the Council requires to support any application for a blue badge noting that the provision of some forms of evidence may have a financial implication on disabled people (For example GP letter). • Whether to introduce Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Verification, to allow applicants to consent to benefit verification directly with DWP to reduce paperwork and improve accessibility. • Whether it is feasible for the Council to expand accepted evidence types to include care plans, Education and Health Care Plans, and summary care records to better reflect lived experience and holistic needs. • Whether the Council should stop requesting disabled people to provide evidence, which is already held in the authority. Once the authority is made aware of the evidence, we should request that evidence from the relevant department. • Enhancing Online Support, by offering live chat or guided upload tools to assist applicants with digital barriers. • Streamlining the application process, especially for repeat applicants with long-term conditions. • Delivering engagement sessions with disability organisations to co-design further improvements. • To follow the core principles of local authority guidance by reminding Blue Badge recipients three months in advance of their Blue Badge expiring to allow time for a renewal to go through.	

	This review should take into account all relevant budgetary and resourcing implications for the Council. Council further resolves to request that the Chief Executive write to the Rt. Hon. Liz Kendall MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pointing out the potential contradiction in legislation and asking for a review of the relevant legislation and associated Regulations to provide greater clarity for administering authorities and applicants alike. Sources: [1] thebluebadgeblog.com [2] www.psychreg.org [3] www.citizensadvicelancashirewest.org.uk [4] medwayadvice.org.uk [5] www.disabilityrightsuk.org [6] uk.news.yahoo.com [7] www.local.gov.uk [8] www.hull.gov.uk [9] www.gov.uk [10] www.localbusinessnews.co.uk [11] bcciconsulting.com [12] www.camden.gov.uk Councillors Smith, Kemp, Ross, Bridges and Herrera-Richmond also spoke on the motion. Councillor Dearing then exercised her right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
77	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor A. Thompson and seconded by Councillor Kassim:** Council believes everyone should be able to spend the final days, weeks and months of their life focusing on what really matters, making memories with their loved ones. But life is often more expensive when you live with a terminal diagnosis. While compared to other cities, the cost of living in Hull may be comparatively lower than London and some other major cities, the cost of living has risen	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships/ Executive Director of Corporate Resources

	significantly since 2022. With this rising cost of living, more and more terminally ill people are being pushed into poverty across the UK every year. Council agrees with calls from Marie Curie for Councils across England to follow the lead of Manchester City Council and review the financial support they offer people with a terminal illness, and their loved ones meaning that people with less than 12 months to live are exempt from paying Council Tax. Council understands that suspending Council Tax for terminally ill people means they will face one less financial burden during an already unimaginably difficult time. It's not just a thoughtful act, it could be the difference between security and poverty at the end of life, when comfort and dignity should be non-negotiable. Council resolves to: a) Support the Marie Curie Campaign calling for Council Tax relief for terminally ill residents; b) set out a plan for Hull City Council to change its policies to explicitly include a commitment to support people who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, and c) base entitlement on SR1 forms completed by a clinician which confirms a person has a progressive disease, and consequently their patient is expected to pass away within 12 months. Sources: Council tax relief for terminally ill residents | Marie Curie Manchester City Council takes pioneering step to tackle end of life poverty | Manchester City Council Scrap council tax for dying people, says national end of life charity h420-dying-in-poverty-local-authorities-3rd-pp.pdf Cost of Living in Kingston upon Hull. Aug 2025. Prices in Kingston upon Hull Cost of living latest insights - Office for National Statistics	

	Councillors Grozav, Hale, Herrera-Richmond, Haines and Kemp also spoke on the motion. Councillor A. Thompson then exercised her right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
78	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Ieronimo and seconded by Councillor Haines as an amended motion:** Council welcomes the UK Government's announcement to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16 for all UK elections, bringing in line with Scotland and Wales. Council notes that: • Many 16 and 17 year olds in Hull area already active citizens studying, working volunteering and paying taxes, yet have no formal say in how decisions affecting them are made. • Hull City Council already operates a Voice and Influence Strategy and has engaged thousands of young people in shaping the Children and Young People Plan 2025/30, demonstrating strong local foundations for deeper youth participation. • Engaging young people early in the democratic process helps to build lifelong participation and trust in public institutions. Council believes that: • Lowering the voting age to 16 will strengthen democracy and ensure that young people's voices are represented. • Local Authorities like Hull have a key role in supporting democratic education and participation among young residents.	Councillor Ross

	• Practical local action now will help ensure a smooth and inclusive transition when the new voting age is introduced. Council therefore resolves to: 1. Support the principle of votes at 16 and welcome the Government's commitment to extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds. 2. Ask the Leader to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Hull's Members of Parliament to express this Council's support for the reform. 3. Request that the Executive instruct the appropriate Council Officers to work with local schools, colleges, the Hull Youth Council and community organisations to: (i) promote understanding of local democracy and voter registration among 16 and 17 year olds, and (ii) encourage participation through youth forums, mock elections and civic education initiatives. 4. Ask the Executive to request Officers to prepare a brief report on Hull City Council's readiness for the lower voting age, including outreach and registration plans, to be presented to Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee by their April, 2026, meetings. 5. Ask the Executive to explore the development of a series of Citizens' Assemblies in Hull, representative forums where residents come together to discuss key local issues and make recommendations to the Council, with a particular focus on engaging young people and first-time voters to strengthen participation and trust in local democracy. Sources: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-year-olds-to-be-given-right-to-vote-through-seismic-government-election-reforms	

	https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/downloads/file/143/cypfs-voice-and-influence-strategy -:~:text=Hull%27s%20Voice%20and%20Influence%20strategy,and%20decisions%20that%20affect%20them. https://electoral-reform.org.uk/mps-vote-to-cut-short-first-past-the-posts-imposition-on-mayors/ Councillors Hale, Smith, Wilkinson, Henry, Grozav, Singh, Harper and Payne also spoke on the motion. Councillor Ieronimo then exercised his right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	
79	**NOTICE OF MOTION** **Moved by Councillor Beeson and seconded by Councillor Coward as an amended motion:** Council notes that one of the most traumatic things that people can experience is the loss of a baby, whether through miscarriage or still birth, and that often this upset and trauma is made more difficult by the settings in which treatment takes place for those mothers. That often, those being treated for miscarriage or still birth, are treated in the same setting as mothers with healthy new-borns in the rooms and beds next to them. Council welcomes the “Rainbow Clinic Service” in place at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The scheme provides specialist support to parents who have experienced the agony of losing a baby, who have died during previous pregnancies or shortly after they were born. Council recognises the work of campaigns such as ‘Tommy’s The Pregnancy and Baby Charity’, Mumsnet’s ‘The Better Miscarriage Care Campaign’ and Sands, Rainbows Chief Executive Officer Samantha Catanach. Council resolves to: a) Ask the Executive to request that the Health and Social Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Commission investigates the matter of	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

	maternity care provisions for those going through the early stages of baby loss in Hull. b) Ask that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee works with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Public Health, along with the Integrated Care Board, to develop recommendations with Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust that can be introduced in order to better support those affected. c) Ask for a report on progress to be provided to Elected Members by no later than 31st March, 2026. Sources: https://www.hey.nhs.uk/news/2024/05/21/rainbow-clinic-helping-parents-after-baby-loss-and-miscarriage/ https://www.mumsnet.com/articles/the-better-miscarriage-care-campaign https://www.sands.org.uk/ https://www.libdems.org.uk/press/release/maternity-review-cannot-be-a-substitute-for-action-with-women-and-babies-dying https://www.libdems.org.uk/press/release/nhs-maternity-payouts-rise-to-pound13bn-as-ed-davey-visits-south-west-to-discuss-crisis https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-58348827 Councillors Nicola, Randall, Bridges, McMurray and Harrison also spoke on the motion. Councillor Beeson then exercised her right of reply on the motion. **Motion carried.**	

Start: 10.00 a.m.
Finish: 2.10 p.m.