

## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING - 03 APRIL 2014

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Guildhall on Thursday, 3 April 2014 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 26 March 2014

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AP Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Chief Executive

### **Agenda**

- 1 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2014 AND 27 FEBRUARY 2014**

*(Pages 9 - 42)*

- 2 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME - SEE AT THE FOOT OF THE AGENDA FOR DETAILS OF THE SCHEME**

**4 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADOPTION**

**4a Greater Cambridge City Deal - Government Offer  
(The Leader)**

To follow

**5 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION**

**Civic Affairs Committee - 19 March 2014**

**5a Constitution - Recording Votes on Budget Decisions**

*(Pages 43 - 50)*

**5b Review of Standards Regime**

*(Pages 51 - 90)*

**6 TO DEAL WITH ORAL QUESTIONS**

**7 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION, NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY:**

**7a Councillors Price and Johnson**

This Council is concerned by the warning in March 2014 by the Citizens Advice Bureau that the lack of an effective welfare safety net for those in crisis means that people who need emergency help are facing a grim choice between a payday loan, a food bank or a loan shark.

It notes:

- i. That a primary cause was the decision of the coalition government to scrap Crisis Loans replacing them with the far less well funded Local Assistance Scheme from April 2013, which in Cambridgeshire is the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme managed by the County Council.
- ii. The 'Nowhere to Turn' report from the Children's Society which expressed concern that the tight criteria for many such schemes, including Cambridgeshire, would mean that they were inaccessible to those in dire straits.
- iii. That in Cambridgeshire the scheme, which was set up following consultation with partners including the City Council, requires on line applications by referral agents including the City Council, a decision time of up to ten days, a maximum of one claim a year and no cash crisis loan.
- iv. That the coalition government has now decided to scrap the funding for local welfare assistance schemes altogether from April 2015.

The Council therefore asks the Director of Customer and Community Services to bring a report to the October meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on:

- i. The operation of the scheme in the City, including the number of referrals by the City Council since April 2013 and comparison with emergency crisis loans in 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- ii. The views of key partners such as Cambridgeshire Citizens Advice Bureau, The City food banks, the Credit Unions and frontline City Council staff in Housing and other departments on the impact of the loss of the scheme on those at crisis point in the City
- iii. Options, including working in partnership with others, for mitigating the impact of the loss of this welfare safety net.

## **7b Councillors Owers and Roberts**

This Council notes

- i. That the private rented sector plays an increasingly crucial role in providing for the housing needs of Cambridge residents, particularly students and young people, but also families.
- ii. That rents in this sector in Cambridge are high and ever-increasing, going up by 8% in 2013, which means that rent costs are eating up an increasing percentage of the income of private tenants.
- iii. That many private renters are hit by unfair management and administration charges and fees levied by lettings agencies.
- iv. That many private renters are also at risk of some lettings agencies and landlords insisting on tenants having rent guarantors, or unfairly withholding deposits.
- v. That those in receipt of Local Housing Allowance or Housing Benefit find many landlords and letting agencies increasingly reluctant to accept them as tenants.

This Council welcomes the setting up of Town Hall Lettings, a social lettings agency which helps homeless individuals and families get a private sector tenancy by taking away some of the risks that stop landlords renting to them.

However, this Council also recognises that, welcome as this is, it will not do anything to help the many individuals and families who find themselves hit by high rents and the problematic practices of letting agents, but who are not homeless. This council accepts that this intermediate group, who are not poor enough to get help from Town Hall Lettings but not wealthy enough to be secure in the Cambridge housing market, need help too.

This Council therefore resolves to request a report to be brought to Community Services Scrutiny Committee to examine the possibility of the remit of Town Hall Lettings being expanded in future to help a wider range of renters, or another Social Lettings Agency being set up, either by this council alone or in partnership with other councils in Cambridgeshire, to help this 'intermediate' group of renters within the private sector.

## **8 WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

No discussion will take place on this item. Members will be asked to note the written questions and answers document as circulated around the Chamber.

## **9 SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS - TO NOTE**

Part 4B paragraph 16 of the Council's Constitution, permits Special Urgency decisions to be taken by the relevant Executive Councillor with the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny committee.

Para 17.3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules requires that these decisions be reported back to Council for information.

### **9a Lion Yard Toilet Refurbishment**

*(Pages 91 - 110)*

### **9b Tour De France, Cambridge 2014**

*(Pages 111 - 114)*

# Information for the Public

## Location

The meeting is in the Guildhall on the Market Square (CB2 3QJ).

Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the building is accessible via Peas Hill, Guildhall Street and the Market Square entrances.

After 5 p.m. access is via the Peas Hill entrance.

All the meeting rooms (Committee Room 1, Committee 2 and the Council Chamber) are on the first floor, and are accessible via lifts or stairs.

## Public Participation

Some meetings may have parts that will be closed to the public, but the reasons for excluding the press and public will be given.

Most meetings have an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements.

To ask a question or make a statement please notify the Committee Manager (details listed on the front of the agenda) prior to the deadline.

- For questions and/or statements regarding items on the published agenda, the deadline is the start of the meeting.
- For questions and/or statements regarding items NOT on the published agenda, the deadline is 10 a.m. the day before the meeting.

Speaking on Planning or Licensing Applications is subject to other rules. Guidance for speaking on these issues can be obtained from Democratic Services on 01223 457013 or [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk).

Further information about speaking at a City Council meeting can be found at;

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/speaking-at-committee-meetings>

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**Filming, recording and photography**

The Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it conducts its decision-making. Recording is permitted at council meetings, which are open to the public. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be recorded. The Chair of the meeting will facilitate by ensuring that any such request not to be recorded is respected by those doing the recording.

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<http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1057&ID=1057&RPID=42096147&sch=doc&cat=13203&path=13020%2c13203>

**Fire Alarm**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding please follow the instructions of Cambridge City Council staff.

**Facilities for disabled people**

Level access to the Guildhall is via Peas Hill.

A loop system is available in Committee Room 1, Committee Room 2 and the Council Chamber.

Accessible toilets are available on the ground and first floor.

Meeting papers are available in large print and other formats on request.

For further assistance please contact Democratic Services on 01223 457013 or [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk).

**Queries on reports** If you have a question or query regarding a committee report please contact the officer listed at the end of relevant report or Democratic Services on 01223 457013 or [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk).

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