

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING - 06 NOVEMBER 2014

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Guildhall on Thursday, 6 November 2014 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 29 October 2014

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014**
(Pages 13 - 38)
- 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 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Mid-Year Financial Review (Executive Councillor for Housing)**
(Pages 39 - 166)
- 4b Mid-Year Financial Review (MFR) 2014/15 to 2017/18 - Treasury Management half yearly update report (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)**
(Pages 167 - 238)
- 4c Arrangements to establish The Cultural Trust (The Leader)**
(Pages 239 - 272)
- 4d Establishment of Greater Cambridge Joint Governance Framework (The Leader)**
(Pages 273 - 296)
- 4e Authority to deputise for the Chief Executive (The Leader)**
(Pages 297)
- 5 To consider the recommendations of Committees for Adoption**

Civic Affairs Committee - 17 September 2014

- 5a Constitution-changes to comply with legislation on recording officer decisions and recording meetings**
(Pages 299 - 330)

Planning Committee - 1 October 2014

- 5b Ombudsman finding of Maladministration**
(Pages 331 - 346)

6 To deal with Oral Questions

7 To consider the following Notices of Motion, notice of which has been given by:

7a Councillor Dryden and Ashton

This Council believes that:

- i. As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.
- ii. Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by Government securing increased revenues by tackling tax dodging, particularly the large sums avoided by multinationals.
- iii. All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
- iv. The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combating tax dodging, a matter of major concern to a significant number of Cambridge residents.

The Council will therefore write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Shadow Chancellor asking for further action and detail on measures under way to stop tax dodging and work internationally to end opportunities for multinationals to avoid UK tax obligations using tax havens.

7b Councillors Robertson and Todd-Jones

The bedroom tax, also called the Spare Room Subsidy, was introduced by the coalition government in April 2012, despite serious concerns being raised by stock holding councils, housing professionals and charities such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. In Cambridge up to 800 Council and Housing Association tenants were affected, with 3/4 of these being Council tenants.

This Council notes that:

- i. The bedroom tax continues to have a severe impact on its tenants with 20% now in arrears and only 5% having been able to downsize in line with national findings.
- ii. 45% of tenants are also being supported through Discretionary Housing Payments, which are a time limited award.
- iii. The Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) fund is also meant to support top ups to the Local Housing Allowance for private sector tenants and those impacted by other welfare reforms by the coalition government but over 80% of the DHP fund is being used for bedroom tax cases.

This Council also notes that:

- i. Julian Huppert has consistently voted for the bedroom tax in Parliament, voting 12 times in support of it and only now that it has proved to be unpopular has he changed his position to appear to be against it. The Parliamentary Labour Party is committed to repealing the bedroom tax if elected in May 2015 and the Cambridge Labour led City Council is committed to not evicting any tenant in arrears solely due to the bedroom tax.
- ii. The Affordable Homes Bill from Andrew George MP in September 2014 is very unlikely to become law and in any case would not mitigate the impact sufficiently on vulnerable groups and will continue to cause pressure and stress to those affected over a prolonged period of time.

This Council therefore resolves that the Leader of the Council will:

- i. Write to Julian Huppert asking him to recognise the misery the bedroom tax had caused and ask for his support in Parliament to repeal the Bill and to recognise that, in line with localism, social sector landlords are best placed to determine their own local lettings policies and best use of their existing stock.
- ii. Ask for his support to lift or remove the debt cap on the Housing Revenue Account which is the chief barrier to the City Council to build more social housing and tackle overcrowding and waiting lists.

7c Councillors Bick and Reid

Council notes:

- i. The urgent need to increase the relevance of public decision making to people's daily lives and to rejuvenate our local democracy.
- ii. The opportunity to tackle this in an appropriate way in England following the Scottish referendum and the commitments made there for increased devolution from Westminster.
- iii. The recent report of the RSA City Growth Commission presenting just the latest evidence that city regions, if empowered to do so, can serve to boost national economic growth.
- iv. The groundswell of support in the local business community for a single council providing coordinated, accountable leadership for the Greater Cambridge area.
- v. The welcome debate opened up at the County Council for alternative approaches to local government in our area, to which the City Council will be asked to participate.

Council believes that:

- i. The survival of the proud tradition of municipal innovation and enterprise, which historically transformed social conditions and enabled strides in prosperity is under threat from the control tendencies of all recent governments.
- ii. There is much to do to in our own area, yet too often our locally elected representatives are circumscribed from taking actions that local people expect of them.
- iii. Both the unwieldy structure of local government covering the city of Cambridge and the centralisation of the vast majority of revenues arising from the area are major sources of frustration with the democratic process.
- iv. Power should reside as close to people as is consistent with making effective decisions that impact them.
- v. Irrespective of demarcations between councils, voluntary collaborations between them are being shown to offer economies of scale and critical mass where needed for cost effective service delivery.

- vi. For purposeful, democratic, local government, we should aspire to a single tier council framed around the logical community of interest within an economic subregion: a shared area of identity within which most people both live and work;

Council calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to:

- i. Participate in discussions with other Cambridgeshire authorities to build a consensus for a new single tier authority for the south of the county with appropriate solutions for the remainder.
- ii. Seek in the interim negotiations with central Government through the structure created for the Greater Cambridge City Deal to seek acceleration of the already committed legislation to enable a Greater Cambridge combined authority.
- iii. Develop and articulate the case for:
 - The retention without strings of a majority of the public revenues arising in this area from business rates and other property based taxation, allowing for the remainder to be redeployed nationally for equalisation.
 - Local accountability to local people for setting business rates and council tax levels.
 - Greater freedom to borrow against business plans for investment in housing.
 - A proportional voting system within a newly empowered local government.
 - A national constitutional convention to provide the stimulus for a new mindset in Westminster and Whitehall and a general framework for progress in all these respects.

7d Councillor Owers

This Council uses the opportunity of Living Wage Week 2014 (2nd-8th November) to welcome Cambridge City Council's new status as an accredited Living Wage employer, and to thank all those who worked hard to make that status possible.

This Council resolves to scrupulously ensure that the terms of accreditation are satisfactorily and expeditiously implemented.

This Council resolves to now take the Living Wage campaign in Cambridge further by prioritising the promotion of the Living Wage in the wider Cambridge economy, among both public and private sector organisations, by highlighting not only the moral case, but also the business case for paying a wage that allows all workers to live a full, active and decent life within the community.

This Council notes that independent research has concluded that paying the Living Wage has multiple benefits for businesses, including:

- i. Improving staff productivity and performance.
- ii. Improving staff retention and loyalty.
- iii. Improving companies' reputation for corporate social responsibility.
- iv. Increased local purchasing power and demand for goods and services.

This Council notes that these benefits are particularly pertinent to Cambridge given the city's high population churn, high living and housing costs, competitive labour market, and high level of concern about corporate social responsibility.

This council notes and supports the appointment of the innovative new post of Living Wage Co-ordinator, a position that has received strong public backing from the Living Wage Foundation.

This Council resolves to work with the Living Wage Co-ordinator and Living Wage Foundation to implement a Living Wage external promotion strategy that will include:

- i. Information-gathering and research to identify which organisations do and do not pay the Living Wage.
- ii. Advocating the benefits of paying the Living Wage and assisting firms with the business case for implementing the Living Wage.
- iii. Helping sympathetic organisations apply for Living Wage accreditation.

- iv. Enlisting private and public sector partners who can advocate and outline the benefits of the Living Wage on our behalf.
- v. High level political engagement and advocacy, including through local business and public sector networks such as Cambridge Ahead, the Cambridge BID, and the Cambridge Network, and our partnerships in the City Deal and the LEP, and with other local authorities.
- vi. Partnership with local Trade Unions.
- vii. Working with the Living Wage Foundation to implement the next stage of their national strategy, namely to give consumers more information about which firms and organisations pay the Living Wage so that people can make ethical purchasing decisions, perhaps through a 'kitemark' scheme.

7e Councillor Cantrill

Council recognises that

- i. The city's connection to long distance coach networks is important to residents and visitors alike and makes a positive contribution to the city economy.
- ii. Current arrangements to provide a terminus on Parkside are inadequate and unsustainable both to surrounding residents and the travelling public as well as inconsistent with the character and amenity of Parker's Piece.
- iii. The current temporary facilities at Parkside were put in place in 2007 pending development of a county-led bus management strategy which does not seem to have materialised and the current temporary planning permission expires this year.
- iv. In order to obtain proper facilities for travellers, some flexibility and willingness to work with the local authorities should be expected of the bus companies to determine the most suitable permanent location.

Council calls on its Planning Officers to work with County Transport Officers to develop alternative locations as a means of providing a suitable permanent home for the coach interchange, noting in particular the expectation that the railway station after its redevelopment would provide a possible solution, as discussed at the start of the current temporary arrangement on Parkside.

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

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 Potential Sale of LBI HF claims

(Pages 347 - 348)

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.

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

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

Cambridge City Council would value your assistance in improving the public speaking process of committee meetings. If you have any feedback please contact Democratic Services on 01223 457013 or democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk.

**Filming,
recording
and
photography**

The Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it conducts its decision making. The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

Anyone who does not want to be recorded should let the Chair of the meeting know. Those recording meetings are strongly urged to respect the wish of any member of the public not to be recorded.

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.

**Queries
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.

General Information

Information regarding committees, councilors and the democratic process is available at <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/>

Mod.Gov App

Modern.gov offer an app that can be used to ensure you always have the latest meeting papers for the committees you are interested in.

<http://www.moderngov.co.uk/our-solutions/tablet-app-paperless-meetings>