



## Cambridge City Council Notice of Council

**Date:** Thursday, 26 May 2022

**Time:** 11.00 am

**Venue:** Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

**Contact:** democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ on Thursday, 26 May 2022 at 11.00 am and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 18 May 2022

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

### Agenda

- 1 To Elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23
- 2 To Elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23
- 3 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on the 24 February and 3 March 2022 (Pages 11 - 44)
- 4 To Note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been Elected to the Office of Councillor  
Abbey – Matt Howard  
Arbury – Iva Divkovic

Arbury – Patrick Sheil  
Castle – Simon Smith  
Cherry Hinton – Russ McPherson  
Coleridge – Anna Smith  
East Chesterton – Baiju Thittala Varkey  
King’s Hedges - Martin Smart  
Market - Katie Porrer  
Newnham – Cameron Holloway  
Petersfield - Richard Robertson  
Queen Edith’s - Daniel Lee  
Romsey - Dinah Pounds  
Trumpington - Olaf Hauk  
West Chesterton – Sam Carling  
West Chesterton – Richard Swift

- 5 To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor
- 6 Mayor's announcements
- 7 To Elect from among the Members of the Council Four Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2022/23
- 8 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 8a Civic Affairs Committee - Committee Appointments and Constitutional Changes (Pages 45 - 52)  
Recommendations for committee sizes and chair/vice-chair appointments to follow.
- 9 Annual Statements  
Group Leaders will each have the opportunity to speak for not more than 10 minutes on their Group’s priorities for action and objectives for the forthcoming municipal year in the following order:  
  
Councillor Anna Smith  
Councillor Bick  
Councillor Bennett
- 10 Public questions time
- 11 To deal with oral questions
- 12 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 12a Councillor Copley - Plant-based food

Cambridge City Council declared climate and biodiversity emergencies in 2019, and shared a vision for Cambridge to be Net Zero by 2030. Furthermore, Cambridge City Council has developed a Sustainable Food Policy Statement (in response to an earlier motion by Cllr Oscar Gillespie), and Cambridge Sustainable Food, in which Cambridge City Council is a partner, has been awarded Silver status by Sustainable Food Places and recently announced it is working towards Gold status.

It is increasingly recognised that meat and dairy production is a significant contributor to climate breakdown, with the livestock sector accounting for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, as well as being a major contributor to global deforestation. The catastrophic effects of climate breakdown mean climate and risk experts predict a world with systemic cascading risks related to food insecurity including food shortages, societal tensions, hunger and malnutrition, unrest and conflict (according to a Chatham house report from 2021), which furthermore predicts a 50% chance of synchronous crop failure in the decade of the 2040s.

As well as a smaller carbon footprint, eating more plant-based foods also reduces the land footprint of our diets and would improve UK food security and self-sufficiency, thereby making our diets more local. We currently import much more food than we export. Meat and dairy is our second biggest food group trade deficit (£4.2 billion pounds a year); we also have a £1.3 billion pound trade deficit in animal feed. In the UK less than 40% of our cereals are eaten by people and almost 60% are fed to livestock: this is a huge food waste issue. East Anglia is predominantly arable farming and there are many local predominantly plant-based food businesses we could support.

The Government commissioned National Food Strategy (July 2021) recommended meat consumption should be reduced by 30% to help food security for future generations, and the Government's independent Climate Change Committee recommended that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food options. Over 40% of Britons are trying to reduce their meat consumption and 14% already follow a flexitarian diet, but plant-based food options are

not consistently available at all events nor food venues. Other countries have taken a stance, for example in Portugal it is a legal requirement for all public catering – including local authority facilities – to provide plant-based food options, and other local authorities such as Oxfordshire County Council have decided to promote plant-based food via serving a fully plant-based menu at Council meetings and events. Locally, the University of Cambridge Catering Service reduced food-related greenhouse gas emissions by a third via replacing beef and lamb with plant-based products.

It is therefore important that Cambridge City Council builds on its achievements to date and leads by example to promote and normalise consumption of plant-based food, recognising that plant-based meals are frequently nutritious and low cost food options. This is in line with its vision for Cambridge City to be net-zero carbon by 2030.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Transition to fully plant-based catering for future Council meetings where food is served, ensuring that this is cheaper or the same cost.
2. Investigate fully the practicalities of using Cambridge City Council Civic events to promote and showcase plant-based food options, alongside displayed information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources. After engaging with a wide variety of catering options (including consideration of social enterprises), bring a costed report of fully plant-based catering options for Civic events to an Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee within 6 months.
3. Ensure that there are plant-based food options available at all City Council run events which involve catering (ie minimum from at least one caterer), where reasonably possible.
4. When events occur on City Council open spaces, and where catering is provided, ensure that plant-based options are available (ie minimum from at least one caterer), secured through the use of terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably possible).
5. Secure through a contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers that plant-based food and drink options are to be

available at kiosks on City Council open spaces and Council run cafes (where reasonably possible). Similarly when possible, via future contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers for Council run cafes, specify that vegetable/legume rich plant-based options are listed prominently on menus, above non plant-based options (e.g. jacket potato and baked beans or tomato pasta would be listed above burger and chips).

6. Continue to work with Cambridge Sustainable Food to promote sustainable (and affordable) food practices throughout the city.

## 12b Councillor Bennett - Abusive Practices Against the LGBTIQ+ Community Motion

### Background

- 1 In October 2020, Cambridge City Council unanimously passed a comprehensive motion supporting trans rights (see notes section at end of motion)
- 2 That motion was brought because of the failure of the conservative government to keep its promises to reform the Gender Recognition Act to protect trans rights.
- 3 Once again, the conservative government is failing to keep its promises to the LGBTIQ+ community
- 4 In their 2018 manifesto, the conservatives promised to legislate to end the abusive practices popularly but incorrectly known as conversion therapy on LGBTIQ+ people.
- 5 Since then, there have been a number of U turns on this subject. The latest position as set out in the 10 May 2022 Queen's Speech is an unsatisfactory proposal which excludes trans people completely and contains a number of provisions which would make it difficult and expensive to enforce.
- 6 In the circumstances, it seems fitting for this council to take a stand and re-affirm its support for trans rights and a full ban on the abusive practices commonly known as "conversion therapy"
- 7 It should be noted that the council's support is not confined to words and it is proposed that we take a moment to record the actions taken by the council to support the LGBTIQ+ community since our October 2020 motion.

## The Motion

- 1 This council continues to stand by its original 2020 declaration that trans rights are human rights.
- 2 It calls upon the government to restore its manifesto promise to introduce a full “conversion therapy” ban at the earliest possible opportunity and instructs the council to write to Elizabeth Truss, Equalities Minister to that effect
- 3 The council also wishes to list upon the public record the following steps that it has taken to promote fairness for the LGBTIQ+ community since October 2020:
  - a. Annual briefings for staff and councillors on transgender awareness
  - b. Financial support for charities and community organisations
  - c. Participation in LGBTIQ+ community events such as LGBT+ history month
  - d. Partnering with LGBTIQ+ community organisations such as Kite Trust and Encompass Network

## The Notes

- 1 So called conversion “therapy” encompasses all attempts to change a person’s sexual/romantic orientation and/or gender identity or to change a person’s asexual or aromatic orientation or agender identity.
- 2 According to a 2009 Scientific American survey , "One in 25 British psychiatrists and psychologists say they would be willing to help homosexual and bisexual patients try to convert to heterosexuality, even though there is no compelling scientific evidence a person can willfully become straight", and explained that 17% of those surveyed said they had tried to help reduce or suppress homosexual feelings, and 4% said they would try to help homosexual people convert to heterosexuality in the future”
- 3 All major psychotherapy bodies have signed a 2018 NHS memorandum condemning conversion therapy. However, a 2018 government survey revealed that 1 in 20 LGBTIQ+ Britons had been offered conversion therapy

and that 1 in 50 had been subjected to it. The figures for the Trans Community are higher at 1 in 5.

- 4 Survivors have been left feeling suicidal. In some cases, physical as well as mental harm has been involved.
- 5 Although the 2018 NHS memorandum is very clear, it does not have legal force. Moreover, it is unlikely to be regarded by unlicensed practitioners or other groups.

Appendix Text of original council Motion October 2020

### **Trans rights are human rights: Council motion**

At the [Council meeting on 22 October 2020](#), councillors passed a joint party motion titled 'Trans rights are human rights'.

The full text of the motion is below:

#### **Trans Rights are Human Rights**

Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary individuals are non-binary. We believe in the dignity of all people and their right to respect and equality of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution that diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Cambridge and the wider region to be safe, welcoming and inclusive.

The Council notes:

1. The failure of the Tory Government to keep its promise to reform the gender recognition act, claiming that these reforms are not a priority for the trans community, despite overwhelming support from that community to de-medicalise the process, remove the spousal veto, and allow non-binary individuals to gain legal recognition.
2. The concerning number of reported hate crimes against LGBTQIA+ people, with hate crime against trans people having quadrupled in the last 5 years.
3. The strong partnership the council has had with LGBTQIA+ groups in the city, including the Kite Trust, Dhiverse, the Encompass Network and Cambridge Pride and the desire to continue to build and develop these relationships as part of our equality work.
4. Council's support for LGBTQIA+ initiatives including:
  - . participation in schemes such as the Encompass Network Safe Spaces initiative,

- i. financial support to LGBTQIA+ groups through the grants programme, with grants of £23,500 in the period 2020/21,
  - ii. LGBT+ History Month and Cambridge Pride,
  - iii. arranging awareness training for staff and councillors.
5. That despite many positive initiatives there is always more to do to ensure that we are a genuinely supportive, inclusive and welcoming city.
6. Our commitment to the Black Lives Matters movement, and our recognition that LGBT+ people of colour face particular challenges and prejudices.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Recognise that it should be up to LGBTQIA+ groups to decide what flag is flown to represent them, continue to consult with all LGBTQIA+ community support and voluntary groups within the city about flying the Progress Pride Flag, at every occasion where the Pride flag would previously have been flown. This also represents LGBTQIA+ people of colour, in line with our commitment to supporting the BLM movement.
- State publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the 2010 equality act.
- Facilitate and strongly encourage all councillors to attend relevant training, such as Safer Spaces and trans awareness training.
- Fly the trans flag on international trans day of visibility (March 31st) and international trans day of remembrance (November 20th)
- Look into what we can do as a council to further promote our equality pledge and to raise awareness of the community grants fund amongst LGBTQIA+ groups.
- Recommit to ensuring a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful relationship with all groups recognised under The Equality Act as having protected characteristics, and to reviewing what additional work can be done to support all these groups as part of the upcoming review of the Single Equalities Scheme. And recommit to doing this in an environment of kindness, compassion and mutual respect.



12c Councillor Bick - Marketing of homes to international property investors

Council requests the Executive Councillor for Transformation, Finance & Resources by all feasible means to bring a rapid end to the practice of marketing new homes in which the council has a financial interest to overseas property investors; and replace it with an unlimited 100% local marketing strategy, focused on those wanting to live and/or work in Cambridge, regardless of country of origin.

13 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.

## Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk)
- Phone: 01223 457000

## Public health and well-being for meeting arrangements

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. Those wishing to address the meeting will also be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams. Given the ambition to limit numbers of people attending the meeting in person to reduce the risk of infections, we would encourage members of the public who wish to address the Committee to do so virtually.

Should you have to attend in person, we encourage you to maintain your face covering unless you are exempt or when speaking at the meeting. Hand sanitiser will be available on entry to the meeting.

If members of the public wish to address the committee either virtually or in person, you must contact Democratic Services [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk) by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.

## COUNCIL

24 February 2022

6.00 - 10.50 pm

**Present:** Councillors Ashton, D. Baigent, S. Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Collis, Dalzell, Davey, H. Davies, Dryden, Flaubert, Gawthrope Wood, Gehring, Gilderdale, Hauk, Healy, Lee, McPherson, Moore, Nethsingha, Page-Croft, Payne, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow and Todd-Jones

Also present (virtually) – Councillors Copley, S.Davies, O'Reilly and Herbert

### FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

#### **22/1/CNL Minutes**

The minutes of the 21 October 2021 and 30 November 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **22/2/CNL Mayor's announcements**

##### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bond, Cox and McQueen.

##### **Mayor's announcements**

A minute's silence was observed to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

#### **22/3/CNL Public questions time**

Public question time was deferred until the 3 March 2022 council meeting.

#### **22/4/CNL To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption**

**4a** Executive Councillor for Housing: HRA Budget-Setting Report (BSR) 2022/23

##### **Resolved (by 25 votes to 0):**

- i. To approve the revised need to borrow over the 30-year life of the business plan, with the first instance of this anticipated to be in 2022/23,

- to sustain the proposed level of investment, which includes ear-marking funding for delivery of a net 1,000 new homes over a 10-year timeframe.
- ii. To recognise that the constitution delegates Treasury Management to the Head of Finance (Part 3, para 5.11), with Part 4F, C16 stating; ‘All executive decisions on borrowing, investment or financing shall be delegated to the Head of Finance, who is required to act in accordance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities.
  - iii. To recognise that any decision to borrow further will impact the authority’s ability to set-aside resource to redeem 25% of the value of the housing debt by the point at which the loan portfolio matures, with the approach to this to be reviewed before further borrowing commences.
  - iv. To approve capital bids, as detailed in Appendix D (3 ) and Appendix E of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
  - v. To approve the latest Decent Homes and Other HRA Stock Investment Programme, to include reduced expenditure for wall structure and fire safety works and re-phasing of other elements of the programme into later years, as detailed in Appendix E of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
  - vi. To approve the latest budget sums, profiling and associated financing for all new build schemes, including revised scheme budgets for Colville III, Fen Road, Ditton Fields, Aragon Close, Sackville Close and Borrowdale based upon the latest cost information from the Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) and a reduction in unit numbers at Aylesborough Close, as detailed in Appendices E and H, and summarised in Appendix K, of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
  - vii. To approve the allocation of funds from the budget ear-marked for the delivery of 1,000 net new homes to allow buy back of leasehold dwellings and relocation of tenants from Princess and Hanover Court over the next two years, in advance of a final recommendation for the future of the estate which will be presented once the options appraisal and consultation work has been concluded.
  - viii. To approve the revised Housing Capital Investment Plan as shown in Appendix K of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
  - ix. To approve the inclusion of Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and associated grant income from 2022/23 onwards, based upon 2021/22 net grant received, with delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to approve an in year increase or decrease in the budget for disabled facilities grants in any year, in direct relation to any increase or decrease in the capital grant funding for this purpose, as received from the County Council through the Better Care Fund.
  - x. To approve delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to determine the most appropriate use of any additional Disabled Facilities

Grant funding, for the wider benefit of the Shared Home Improvement Agency.

- xi. To approve delegation to the Strategic Director to review and amend the level of fees charged by the Shared Home Improvement Agency for disabled facilities grants and repair assistance grants, in line with any decisions made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.
- xii. To approve delegation to the Strategic Director to review, agree and enter into a revised Shared Home Improvement Agency Shared Service Agreement, in line with recommendations made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.
- xiii. To approve delegation to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to draw down resource from the ear-marked reserves for potential debt redemption or re-investment, for the purpose of open market land or property acquisition or new build housing development, should the need arise, in order to meet deadlines for the use of retained right to buy receipts or to facilitate future site redevelopment.
- xiv. To approve delegation to the Head of Finance, as Section 151 Officer, to make any necessary technical amendments to detailed budgets in respect of recharges between the General Fund and the HRA, with any change in impact for the HRA to be incorporated as part of the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2022.

**4b** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Capital Strategy 2022/2023

**Resolved (unanimously):**

- i. To agree the capital strategy as set out in the report and note the summary capital programme.

**4c** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Treasury Management Strategy Statement Report 2022/23 to 2024/25

**Resolved (unanimously):**

- i. To approve the officer's report, including the estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (inclusive) as set out in Appendix C.
- ii. To approve the renewal of the £7.5 million loan to Cambridge City Housing Company Ltd (CCHC) for a further term of 5 years from 1 April 2022, at an interest rate of 2.02% per annum.

- iii. To introduce an authorised limit for other long-term liabilities of £2 million, in response to technical accounting changes brought about by the adoption of IFRS 16 (see 7.3 of the officer's report).

## **22/5/CNL To consider Budget Recommendations of the Executive for Adoption**

### **5a Budget Setting Report (General Fund) 2022/23 to 2026/27**

The Executive presented its budget recommendations as set out in the Council Agenda and as published on the City Council's website.

### **5b Liberal Democrat Group Amendment to the Executive Budget Recommendations**

The Liberal Democrat Group Members presented the Liberal Democrat Group's alternative budget as set out in the Council Agenda and as published on the City Council's website.

### **5c Green and Independent Group Budget Statement**

The Green and Independent Group Members presented the Green and Independent Group budget comments as set out in the Council Agenda and as published on the City Council's website.

On a show of hands the Liberal Democrat Group's alternative budget amendment was lost by:

10 votes in favour: Bennett, Bick, Dalzell, Flaubert, Gehring, Hauk, Lee, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer.

To 23 votes against: Ashton, D.Baigent, S.Baigent, Collis, Davey, H.Davies, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Healy, McPherson, Moore, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones.

In accordance with the Council's budget procedure, Councillor Bick moved separately the following proposals, which formed part of the Liberal Democrat Group alternative budget:

Reference B0001 (Strengthen planning enforcement within the city) and S0002 (Reduction of Communications team expansion) (pages 436/437 of the agenda).

On a show of hands the proposal was lost by:

10 votes in favour: Bennett, Bick, Dalzell, Flaubert, Gehring, Hauk, Lee, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer.

To 23 votes against: Ashton, D.Baigent, S.Baigent, Collis, Davey, H.Davies, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Healy, McPherson, Moore, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones.

Reference RI0003 (Postpone 2022-23 increase in market stall trader fees) (page 436 of the agenda).

On a show of hands the proposal was lost by:

10 votes in favour: Bennett, Bick, Dalzell, Flaubert, Gehring, Hauk, Lee, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer.

To 23 votes against: Ashton, D.Baigent, S.Baigent, Collis, Davey, H.Davies, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Healy, McPherson, Moore, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones.

Reference CAP0006 (Capital grant for acquisition of acoustic monitoring cameras) (page 439 of the agenda).

On a show of hands the proposal was lost by:

10 votes in favour: Bennett, Bick, Dalzell, Flaubert, Gehring, Hauk, Lee, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer.

To 23 votes against: Ashton, D.Baigent, S.Baigent, Collis, Davey, H.Davies, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Healy, McPherson, Moore, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones.

Unless otherwise stated, all references in the recommendations to sections, pages and appendices relate to Version 2.0 (Council) of the Budget Setting Report (BSR).

This can be found via:

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, 6.00 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

It was RESOLVED to agree the Executive's budget proposals by:

23 votes in favour: Ashton, D.Baigent, S.Baigent, Collis, Davey, H.Davies, Dryden, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Healy, McPherson, Moore, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones.

9 abstentions: Bennett, Bick, Dalzell, Gehring, Hauk, Lee, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer.

To approve the following:

- i. Revenue Pressures and Bids shown in Appendix B(b) and Savings shown in Appendix B(c) of the officer's report.
- ii. Non-Cash Limit items as shown in Appendix B(d) of the officer's report.
- iii. Bids to be funded from External Funding sources as shown in Appendix B(e) of the officer's report.
- iv. Delegation to the Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance) of the calculation and determination of the Council Tax taxbase (including submission of the National Non-Domestic Rates Forecast Form, NNDR1, for each financial year) which is set out in Appendix A(a) of the officer's report.
- v. The level of Council Tax for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A (b) and Section 4 [page 17 of the BSR refers].
- vi. Delegation to the Head of Finance authority to finalise changes relating to any further corporate and/or departmental restructuring and any reallocation of support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).
- vii. The proposals outlined in Appendix C(a) for inclusion in the Capital Plan.
- viii. Deletion from the Capital Plan of the Cambridge Junction capital scheme, as set out in Section 6 [page 29 of the BSR refers].
- ix. The revised Capital Plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix C(c) and the Funding as set out in Section 6, page 29 of the BSR.



- x. The impact of revenue budget approvals and the resulting contribution from reserves to support service delivery [Section 8, page 44 of the BSR refers].
- xi. The allocation of funding on a contingency basis to the collaborative 'Changing Futures' programme project [Section 8, page 44 of the BSR refers].
- xii. The resulting level of reserves [Section 8, page 44 of the BSR refers].
- xiii. The Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Report included in Section 10 of the BSR [page 65 refers].
- xiv. The schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 in Appendix F of the officer's report.

Under Council Procedure Rule 28 on the Mayor's proposal and Council agreement the meeting was adjourned until 6pm on Thursday 3 March.

The meeting ended at 10.50 pm

**CHAIR**

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**COUNCIL (CONTINUATION FROM 24.2.22)**

3 March 2022  
6.00 - 10.20 pm

**Present:** Councillors Ashton, D. Baigent, S. Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Collis, Copley, Cox, Dalzell, Davey, H. Davies, S. Davies, Gehring, Hauk, Herbert, Lee, McPherson, Moore, Nethsingha, O'Reilly, Payne, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Sargeant, Scutt, Sheil, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Sweeney, Thornburrow and Todd-Jones

Attending virtually-Councillor Flaubert, Gilderdale

Apologies for absence- Councillors Bond, Dryden, Healy, McQueen and Page-Croft

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

**22/6/CNL Public questions time**

Question 1

- i. Councillors will be aware of our campaign with the RNIB and Cam Sight to address concerns about pavement parking. Since COVID lockdowns commenced the habit of parking cars on, or across, the pavement has increased substantially and shows no signs of abating now that restrictions have eased. Some of you may have visited our website at [stumblingstreets.com](http://stumblingstreets.com), viewed the video produced by the RNIB or seen the gallery showing some of the many instances that have been photographed. 70% of the photos on that site were taken in the first two weeks of February and they must represent only a fraction of the reality.
- ii. While representing a nuisance for all pedestrians, pavement parking is a major issue for particular groups. Wheelchair and mobility scooter users as well as parents with prams or buggies are often forced into the road to get around the vehicles. For the blind and partially sighted they represent a hazard with real potential dangers. One they are now likely to encounter at least once in almost every outing. If active travel policies are ever to work, barriers like this need to be reduced not, as they are now, allowed to grow unchecked.
- iii. We are, of course, aware that the City Council has no powers to address this and similar problems under the current arrangements. We believe it has a major role to play, nonetheless. Will this Council and its members now agree to press the County Council and the Highways and Transport Committee for swift action to bring an end to the worst manifestations of

what is rapidly becoming an epidemic, one that negates the positive work of the Active Travel Team?

- iv. First it is important to emphasise to the County Council and especially to the Highways and Transport Committee that they absolutely do have the powers to address the problem. These were bestowed on all local authorities including Cambridge by 'special authorisation' in February 2011 given by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Norman Baker, to prohibit parking on footways and verges, wherever they considered it necessary. This would be exercised through a traffic regulation order (TRO, or ETRO). A copy of that authorisation could be made available.
- v. Secondly, this Council can refuse to accept the obfuscation, buck passing and denial of responsibility that seems to have greeted past complainants. Thirdly they can make it clear that, apart from London where there is a blanket ban, pavement parking has been, or is being, successfully tackled in cities like Peterborough and Sheffield through the use of TROs in localities where the problem is worst. This is easier and generally more acceptable than city wide action. Councillors can identify and nominate local hotspots for consideration. Finally, this Council can suggest that, if initial schemes have sufficient scope, any action could be self-funding through the administration of fines.

The Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport said the following:

- i. Thanked the public speaker for drawing the work of Living Streets Cambridge in this area to the Council's attention.
- ii. This issue would be very familiar to Councillors across Cambridge who recognised the difficulties it can cause and the obstacles that many residents experienced.
- iii. Agreed with the points that had been raised and would press Cambridgeshire County Council as the Highways Authority to ensure the concerns raised could be discussed and solutions found.
- iv. Was aware that Cambridgeshire County Council had consulted with the London based national organisation representing disability interest Transport for All to work through many of the objectives raised.
- v. Had requested a meeting with the relevant Councillors, Officers and the public speaker and hoped it would take place in the next couple of weeks from this meeting.

## Question 2

- i. How can we further accelerate the deployment of rapid, effective, no-brainer investment in housing insulation and heat saving retrofit across

all council properties, as well as suitable local incentives for private dwellings, especially private rented dwellings - which is surely the most critical and comparatively easy priority for a sudden and significant reduction in fossil usage in the city, as well as significantly reducing cost of living, utility bills for as many local residents as possible.

- ii. Would the Council commit to swiftly investing in these choices, and incentive private landlords and homeowners to undertake this work.

The Executive Councillor for Housing said the following:

- i. Since 2020, the Council had been fitting external wall insulation and solar panels to council owned properties, with a programme of 150 solid wall properties in Arbury, to be completed this year at a cost of £3.2million. Those residents should save at least £200 per annum on energy bills as the energy rating had gone from D to B
- ii. In the new financial year, £1.9million had been allocated from the housing revenue account (HRA) to retrofit another 60 council houses.
- iii. In combination with the HRA, using local authority delivery funding where applicable, and the social housing decarbonisation fund, there were plans to retrofit more council properties in 2023.
- iv. The Council also had ongoing planned works for loft insulation for all council dwellings and cavity wall insulation for 148 council dwellings benefiting in 2021/22.
- v. £5million had been allocated from the HRA to deliver a net zero carbon housing project in 2022/23.
- vi. A package of energy efficiency measures across 50 different council home types would assist in calculating zero carbon measures required for all existing council dwellings. Evidence from this project would help assist with the Council's request to Government for more funding.
- vii. £365million was required to retrofit all council homes to energy rating B standard, but the HRA could not fund this. The Council was applying to every grant funding stream available, but the Government also needed to meet this challenge.
- viii. The Council were part of The Great Homes Upgrade campaign to lobby the Government to upgrade all homes.
- ix. The Council would look at the planned maintenance programme and if funds were available and could be allocated for appropriate works, there was the flexibility to do so.

The Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre said the following:

- i. With regards to private owned and privately rented properties there were a number of initiatives being pursued by the Council; working in

partnership with all Cambridgeshire districts to deliver retrofit to Cambridgeshire residents through the Action on Energy programme with the service planned to start in July 2022.

- ii. There were a number of projects designed to provide residents advice and support on how to retrofit their homes.
- iii. Two high level retrofit studies had been commissioned to identify what energy efficiency and renewable energy measures would need to be installed for different property archetypes in Cambridge. A building control project was also launched last year to provide homeowners energy advice through thermal imaging. The private rented sector would also be targeted through the minimum energy efficiency standards.

### Question 3

- i. On the 22 July 2021, the Council unanimously passed a motion outlining its concerns about the implications of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. With the Bill in its final stages having completed all its readings in the House and the Lords, it is due to enter the Commons for final consideration of the Lords amendments Monday, 28 February before proceeding for Royal Assent. Although a number of amendments on the rights to protest have been changed, there has been little movement on the provisions regarding the criminalisation of the Traveller way of life, the power of police to seize Gypsy and Traveller homes, to fine Gypsies and Travellers up to £2,500 and to imprison those who continue to follow a nomadic way of life because of the lack of safe legal stopping places.
- ii. Since the passing of the Council's motion last year there had been 7 evictions. The GRT community were asked to participate in the GTANA but they declined to do so stating that the Council had no relationship with the GRT community. Trust needed to be built with the GRT community.
- iii. What plans does the Council have in place now to supply legal stopping places and transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers passing through Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire?
- iv. This is now an issue of great urgency. There are no legitimate grounds for delay.

### Question 4

- i. I am delighted that the council stood in solidarity with the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community against Jimmy Carr's appearance at the Corn Exchange in February. I was at the protest and delighted to see some councillors there.

- ii. However, it is disappointing that the council does not currently have a negotiated stopping policy and continues to carry out evictions. I note that in their meeting of 22nd July 2021, councillors voted through a motion in which they committed to “Stand in solidarity with Traveller and Gypsy communities in Cambridge and continue to build trust and good relations with them”. However, councillors also voted down an amendment which would – among other things – have made provision for negotiated stopping in Cambridge. Negotiated stopping has a proven track record in providing secure housing and service provision for Travellers. It also eases tensions with local communities and, in Leeds, has saved the council £230,000 on clean-up and enforcement costs.
- iii. I understand that Cambridge City Council was the only council in Cambridgeshire to carry out an eviction during the first COVID lockdown. As a Labour Party member, I am concerned that a Labour council would allow this. The motion of solidarity passed last July is encouraging but it is time to go further than words and take meaningful action to back up the rhetoric.
- iv. I understand that the council may have considered the idea of negotiated stopping in the past. Will the City Council and its members act in accordance with its words of support for the GRT community, and commit to a formal negotiated stopping policy now, such as has been adopted in Leeds?'

## SOURCES

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=27720>

<https://www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk/ns-explained>

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/cambridge-city-council-to-stand-in-solidarity-with-travell-9208931/>

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/traveller-communities-face-systemic-racism-21960286>

The Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing responded to questions 3 and 4 together:

- i. Agreed this issue was a matter of urgency and did not intend to delay.
- ii. Fully supported negotiated stopping places as an alternative solution for the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) community to stop safely and legally.
- iii. In the case of Cambridge City Council, the current availability of unused pieces of council owned land, which could feasibly serve as a temporary legal stopping place was a significant limiting factor. Given these limitations our current approach in respect of GRT encampments on our

land was a *de facto* negotiated stopping agreement, which included agreeing stopping time and services to be provided by the Council. These services include welfare assessments, water, rubbish disposal and sanitation. In most cases, such as on our parks and open spaces, stopping can be agreed for weeks or in some case months (eg. Coldham's Common in 2019).

- iv. As said previously, any need for transit site provision needed to be included in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan; and therefore clear evidence of GRT need was required. A Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) was the recognised way of doing this.
- v. Recognised that GTANAs had their limitations, which included the willingness and trust of the GRT community to be interviewed. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic (with lockdown starting just before interviews across the study area were due to take place) had inevitably had an impact this time round due to delays in carrying out surveys and additional reluctance of some individuals and families to be interviewed face to face. She had been reassured that the consultants were now completing these interviews.
- vi. She attended the Corn Exchange and welcomed the show of solidarity with the GRT community from a whole cross section of the Cambridge community against GRT racism.
- vii. Had spoken with a member of the GRT community whilst at the Corn Exchange and asked what the Council could do to support the GRT community. Their response was to provide stopping places. To support stopping places, un-used sites needed to be found.
- viii. Would work with neighbouring councils to understand what needs there were and how these needs could be met.

#### Question 5

- i. The woefully inadequate provision of formal sports pitches at the proposed North East Cambridge development is on tonight's agenda.
- ii. What is the prospect of the new development getting a bigger share of sports facilities that the council's own policy says it should bring?
- iii. Why shouldn't sports pitches and a swimming pool be part of the promise of a five-minute community that the council is promoting to its future residents?

The Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport said the following:

- i. The proposed development at north east Cambridge would not be coming forward for the next 10-15 years.



- ii. Would work towards the full requirement of sports facilities contained within the current adopted Local Plan being delivered on site or close by.
- iii. There was nothing within the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan preventing all sports facility provision being provided on-site.
- iv. Noted that further debate on the matter would take place during item 22/10/CNLb.

#### Question 6

- i. Why are there insufficient rubbish and recycling bins throughout Castle Ward. What plans has the Council got in place to properly reflect the increasing pedestrian traffic in the Ward to ensure litter reduction?

The Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre said the following:

- i. Dog waste (preferably bagged) could be disposed of in any litter bin.
- ii. Tackling the environmental and financial impacts of litter was a priority across all wards in Cambridge. The Council was currently developing a Litter Strategy, which included a litter bin review (which would look at the location, size and type of bins).
- iii. A resident's survey had been undertaken and responses stated that litter impacted on resident's satisfaction of where they lived and their wellbeing.
- iv. Detailed litter issues could be sent to the Executive Councillor and would be shared with officers as part of the litter bin review.

The following questions were not asked during the meeting, written responses where available, would be provided following the meeting.

#### Question 7

- i. The City Council is to be congratulated on its successful application, with South Cambridgeshire District Council, for funding to undertake restoration work on the city's chalk streams and their critically important biodiversity. Would it therefore not be appropriate to also provide statutory protection, in the form of Local Nature Reserve (LNRs), for all those streams that meet the criteria for such designation? As has been found globally, restoration of biodiversity and its habitat is of little value unless the areas involved are also protected and suitable measures put in place to reduce the threats that led to deterioration in the first place. The 11 LNRs in Cambridge include Nine Wells and Byron's Pool, but no other chalk stream habitat.
- ii. Cherry Hinton Brook is a particularly important example and is currently designated only as a City Wildlife Site, which carried no statutory weight.

The Brook meets the key criteria for designation as an LNR in terms of local importance for wildlife, education and enjoyment (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves>). It has a very healthy population of breeding water voles (a protected species), visiting otters and a rich bird diversity including kingfisher, egret and water rail. It is enormously popular as a leisure spot, attracts many birdwatchers and photographers, and is also used for educational school visits. There is an active group of volunteers involved with maintenance and restoration activities, and who would help to prepare the required management plan. Would the Council consider looking at the feasibility of designating Cherry Hinton Brook as an LNR, thus demonstrating the Council's full commitment to the protection of this unique habitat?

#### Question 8

- i. Given that the upper Cam is classed by the Environment Agency as being of 'poor' water quality, and that, as we have established for ourselves by professionally validated microbial testing, the principal source of polluting faecal bacteria are from upstream sewage treatment works can the Greater Cambridge Partnership not put a great deal more pressure on the Water Companies (particularly Anglian Water) to improve their performance so that our Cam valley rivers reach at least 'good' water quality status?

#### Question 9

- i. I gather "up to 12 streets will be selected where local residents can volunteer to clear their street spaces to avoid herbicide use" ([www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/herbicide-free-trials-to-begin-in-two-cambridge-wards-and-9238734](http://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/herbicide-free-trials-to-begin-in-two-cambridge-wards-and-9238734)).
- ii. It's an excellent initiative, and when I posted a message about it on our Belvoir Road WhatsApp group, I discovered there was lots of support and many willing volunteers.
- iii. How do we go about getting Belvoir Road selected?

In response the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing said the following:

- i. To be selected you will need to register your interest using an online form and the council will then help you to consult other local residents and neighbours to reach a consensus of support and then if successful, the council will work with your street to become herbicide free.
- ii. The Council has developed a range of web-based support material to help with community communications and build volunteer capacity.

- iii. The 12 selected streets would be supported by the Council's Streets and Open Spaces Community Engagement service, who would also make resources available, as required, such as tools, signs, gloves, etc.

**5d** Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy: Corporate Plan 2022-27

Resolved (by 25 votes to 0):

- i. To agree the Corporate Plan as attached to the agenda.

**22/7/CNL To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption**

**6a** Licensing Committee: Review of Statement of Gambling Principles

Resolved (unanimously):

- i. To approve for publication the Statement of Gambling Principles set out in Appendix A of the officer's report.

**6b** Civic Affairs: Appointing Person: Arrangements for the Appointment of the External Auditor

Resolved (unanimously):

- i. To agree the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as the appointing person for the council.
- ii. To delegate acceptance of the invitation to the Head of Finance, as the council's Section 151 Officer.

**6c** Civic Affairs: Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

Councillor Bick proposed and Councillor Porrer seconded the following amendment to the recommendations (additional text underlined):

- i. To approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.
- ii. To delegate authority to the Head of Human Resources to update the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 should a chief executive and/or chief officer and/or NJC pay award be agreed.
- iii. To ask the committee to reconsider its decisions (iv) and (v) in relation to Chief Executive and Director performance appraisal, allowing further discussion to take place first, in the meantime leaving the existing process in place.

The Committee also agreed:

- iv. Unanimously - To note the update on the review of senior officer salaries which was scheduled for late 2021 and has now been moved until 2022 due to the delay in the national pay award settlement for 2021 and the forthcoming review of the senior management structure.
- v. By 4 votes to 2 - For director performance reviews to be undertaken by the Chief Executive, as outlined in Section 5 of the officer's report.
- vi. By 4 votes to 2 - For chief executive performance reviews to be undertaken by the Leader, as outlined in Section 5 of the officer's report.

On a show of hands the amendment was lost by 9 votes in favour to 21 against.

Resolved (by 30 votes to 3):

- i. To approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.
- ii. To delegate authority to the Head of Human Resources to update the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 should a chief executive and/or chief officer and/or NJC pay award be agreed.

**6d** Civic Affairs: Amendment to the Constitution Part 4A Appendix F (A) - Protocol on Media Relations

Resolved (unanimously):

- i. That sections 1-3 of Part 4A Appendix F(A) of the constitution be deleted, as illustrated in Appendix A of the officer's report.

**6e** Civic Affairs: Member Allowances Scheme / Virtual Area Committees

Resolved (by 22 votes to 0):

- i. To approve the Members Allowances Scheme as amended.
- ii. To approve that the Area Committees continue virtually for the March cycle 2022 as set out in paragraph 1.6 of the officer's report.

**22/8/CNL To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to Councillor Bird for Mayoral Year February 2019 to May 2020**

Resolved (unanimously), on the proposal of Councillor McPherson, seconded by Councillor Porrer that:

- i. The Council expressed its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of Mayor were discharged by Councillor Gerri Bird and her consort Alan Pooley, during their period of office February 2019 to May 2020 and that the Common Seal be affixed to a copy of the resolution.

**22/9/CNL To deal with oral questions****1) Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources**

How does the Executive Councillor feel about the extensive overseas marketing of the new private housing on council-owned sites at Ironworks (the former Mill Road Depot) and Timberworks (Cromwell Road) being constructed by the Council's joint venture with Hill?

Executive Councillor Response:

Was not aware of any extensive overseas marketing of the private housing on the council owned sites at Cromwell Road and Mill Road. Was aware of the recent Youtube video promoting the site, this was un-authorized and had not been commissioned by Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP) and the Sales Manager was seeking to get this removed. Two online council promoted events had taken place. Sales were restricted to individual purchasers rather than bulk sales. There was a guide level of 25% of sales to overseas buyers.

**2) Councillor S Baigent to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Can the Executive Councillor give an update on the city's food justice work and, in particular, comment on whether there are any plans for Cambridge to become a Right to Food City?

Executive Councillor Response:

The Council played an active role within the city's Food Poverty Alliance and were long term supporters of a whole range of food justice programmes, which includes holiday hunger projects, food hubs and emergency food aid. The Food Poverty Alliance was vital during the pandemic and the Council planned to continue its support. Work now was moving from food poverty to food justice. Would be exploring the 'Right to Food' campaign with the Food Poverty Alliance.

**3) Councillor Sargeant to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

We hear a lot about the allocation of community grants, but sometimes less about what happens to those grants. Could the executive councillor please update us on the outcomes of some of the activities which have received funding in previous years?

Executive Councillor response:

Every award made was monitored against activity and outcomes contained within the grant agreement. A few example case studies included: the Money Advice Centre (MAC) and debt advice. John came to the MAC with a folder

detailing his debts. It took over 100 hours to work out what debt he had and who he owed money to. This work was undertaken by MAC staff and volunteers. John would be debt free in a few months. He had turned his life around and the MAC was thrilled to have worked with him. Another example included the Meadows Children and Family wing funding which was used for a family support project.

Councillors thanked Jackie Hanson for all the work she had undertaken with the Grants Team and the community, she would be missed following her retirement.

#### **4) Councillor Hauk to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport**

Could the Executive Councillor please confirm that she is committed to working with the Cambridge South station development process to ensure that Hobson's Park and its vital biodiversity and amenity areas are protected as much as possible during and after any works that may take place.

Executive Councillor response:

Strong statements had been made by officers in the Shared Planning Service, the Street and Open Spaces Team and Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing to the recent public examination regarding the proposals for Cambridge South Station. This included objecting to the proposals for a number of reasons, including concerns about the implications on Hobson's Park. As a result of substantial engagement and the council's objections the promoters of the station made a number of amendments to the proposals aimed at reducing the impacts of the construction phase and ensuring that the final post-construction mitigation proposals met the Council's biodiversity and recreational objectives. Subject to these changes the Council was then able to support the proposals.

#### **5) Councillor D.Baigent to the Executive Councillor for Housing**

Can the Exec Cllr provide information on the additional winter support for rough sleepers in Cambridge?

Executive Councillor response:

The severe weather emergency provision (SWEP) consisted of several communal spaces where people could sleep for the night, with the expectation that they would vacate the building the following morning. This winter 20 beds were available at the Cross Way site in Chesterton through the charity 'It takes a city' with grant funding and support including from the Council. Beds were available to rough sleepers who were identified by the Outreach Team and

were locally connected to the city. In previous arrangements bed were only available during periods of severe weather. From November 2021 – 28 February 2022, winter provision was open permanently, this was also to be extended into March if there was a period of severe weather, which would have triggered the SWEP. This was a much more stable environment allowing each resident to have their own room. The facility also sought to enable residents to move on to suitable long term accommodation. The Street Outreach Team also sought to contact all known rough sleepers during the stormy weather to ensure that they had appropriate accommodation.

### **6) Councillor Hauk to the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport**

Following the recent collapse of a roof wall in Whittle Avenue, Trumpington, during storm Eunice, what is the Council doing and what will it do to ensure that the new developments are and will be built up to the required and expected standards, especially with respect to the health and safety of their residents.

Executive Councillor response:

Storm Eunice was an extreme case and effected some buildings across the country and in Cambridge. As soon as the council became aware of the issue, a building control officer visited the location and discussions took place with the management agent and owners to ensure the safety of residents within the building. Responsibility for building safety sat with the person carrying out the construction work and inspections were carried out during construction by Building Control Surveyors (either by Approved Inspectors or the local authority Building Control Service). The Council was currently trying to raise awareness with architects and agents, residents and communities of the importance of complying with the minimum standards of building control through a number of awareness sessions which were open to all and were taking place virtually. Were investigating about engaging with developers and agents at the earliest point within the build process to secure a voluntary commitment to building control standards which may be above the minimum standards. The City Council did not undertaken the building control work on the Whittle Avenue development.

### **7) Councillor Bird to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

Following on from the council's recent stand on racism against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities, what will be taking place to enhance our community development work with those communities and to promote and celebrate GRT culture

Executive Councillor response:

As part of the transformation programme, the work undertaken in the Communities Team was being reviewed, including whether what the council currently does meets the needs of the communities and if there was anything that the council needed to do differently. As part of this work it was being explored whether a new post was required to specially support GRT families and the community. Felt it was important to give a platform to celebrate GRT culture. A specific project was being set up, which would be held at the Corn Exchange. There would also be activities at Midsummer Fair too.

**8) Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre**

Does the Executive Councillor think that there is a fundamental problem with Green Bin collection in Cambridge?

Executive Councillor response:

She did not think there was a fundamental problem with the green bin collection in Cambridge, the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Team had been doing an outstanding job during the covid-19 pandemic. The staff worked day in and day out when many others could work safely from home. The service had been impacted by staff illness. There was also a shortage of agency workers who would normally have been employed to fill any gaps. The service had also been impacted by Brexit and the HGV driver shortages. The council had a statutory duty to collect residual waste and recycling; green bin collection was a discretionary service. When there was a staffing shortage blue and black bin collections were therefore prioritised. Acknowledged recently that 30% of green bins had been unable to be collected on time but crews had worked over time to catch up.

The following oral questions were tabled but owing to the expiry of the period of time permitted, were not covered during the meeting.

**9) Councillor Sweeney to the Leader of the Council**

Given the Government's recent announcement that it is going to remove most of the remaining covid protections, what is the leader's message to Cambridge residents?

**10) Councillor Pounds to the Executive Councillor for Housing**

Can the Exec Cllr for Housing give an update on the government's 'First Homes' policy



**11) Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre**

Can the Executive Councillor offer an update on the development towards a city-wide litter strategy?

**12) Councillor Lee to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well Being**

Whilst noting that national regulation is needed for pavement and highway usage, will the Executive Councillor agree to work cross party within the city, with our County colleagues and with local volunteer groups to look at how best to promote the safe use of (legal) e-bikes and e-scooters and deter antisocial and illegal use across our city council open spaces and shared paths, moving at speed and often without lights, putting pedestrians and vulnerable road users at risk?

**13) Councillor Copley to the Leader of the Council**

Despite covid restrictions being rolled back, a number of residents are still vulnerable and / or shielding due to their health conditions. How can the council best support these residents as they continue living with uncertainty and personal covid risk?

**14) Councillor Scutt to the Executive Councillor for Communities**

Can the executive councillor provide an update on the plans for lending, loaning and reuse projects in the city?

**15) Councillor H. Davies to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Council has been really encouraged to see the start of the herbicide-free trial this year. Can the Executive Councillor update members on progress so far, and timescales for action?

**16) Councillor Dalzell to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well Being**

Our Council owns a number of enclosed green spaces that do provide important refuge for nature. When these sites are licensed for use by third parties, what steps does the Council take to ensure that local wildlife is suitably protected?

**17) Councillor Porrer to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces please provide an update on the proposed electricity supply to the centre of Parker's Piece, which is going

to be essential to stop future fossil fuel use at events contracted with the council to take place on this land.

**18) Councillor Healy to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Well being**

Can the Executive Councillor update members on the partnership working with other local councils to support the national scheme to resettle Afghan refugees?

**19) Councillor D Baigent to the Leader of the Council**

What is the leader's response to the recent levelling up white paper?

**22/10/CNL To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:**

**9a Councillor Robertson: Fuel Poverty**

Resolved (unanimously) that:

There is a serious threat of fuel poverty to many residents of Cambridge

In the last few months international energy costs have risen dramatically. In response the government have announced a scheme to increase the cap on energy bills, and provide some compensation through council tax rebates and pay back loans. However it is apparent there are serious flaws in this scheme.

*New analysis from Joseph Rowntree Foundation finds that, even after the new deferral scheme for energy bills and council tax discount are taken into account, once the new energy price cap kicks in:*

- *Families on low incomes will spend on average 16% of their incomes after housing costs on energy bills. This compares to 5% for middle-income families*
- *Single adult households on low incomes will spend a shocking 43% on average of their income after housing costs on energy bills*
- *Lone parent families on low incomes will spend 22% on average of their income after housing costs on energy bills*
- *Some families on low incomes will face annual bills as high as £2,326 from April*
- *For low-income families with children, the measures will mitigate just 36% of the increase in their bills on average. This compares to 59% for low-income single-adult households.*

- *Around three-quarters of people eligible for the council tax discount announced are not in poverty*

Cambridge City Council calls on the Government to act now and far more effectively on the national crisis in energy prices and unsustainable supply, to protect thousands of low and middle income Cambridge residents who will get nothing from the council tax rebate plan or payback loan. We call on the government to take the following actions:

1. Increase substantially the Warm Homes Discount for poorer households, and expand the category of households eligible to include all in receipt of either Pension Credit or working age benefits
2. Allow households heated through communal heating schemes to be eligible for the energy cap as they are currently treated as commercial customers and excluded
3. Levy windfall taxes on fossil fuel producing companies
4. Remove from energy bills the burden of paying the debts of failed energy companies since OFGEM failed to require them to protect themselves against wholesale cost increases
5. Remove environmental levies from energy bills and pay for them from general taxation.
6. Cut VAT on energy bills and insulation at least until energy bills return to more usual levels
7. Set up a National Renewable Energy Fund for long term investment in energy efficiency by homeowners, council and other social landlords, private rental tenants and small to medium sized businesses

We ask our Council leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, copied to our two MPs, making the case for intervention and pointing out that the proposed scheme to reimburse people via the council tax system, fails to help thousands of families in need or lead to long term investment to cut future bills and end the use of fossil fuels for domestic heating and power in Britain.

#### **9b** Councillor Dalzell: North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

Councillor Dalzell proposed and Councillor Bick seconded the following motion:

Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with her scrutiny committee options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities as soon as these can be developed by officers, and then to reconsider her decision to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan in the light of this.

Councillor Thornburrow proposed and Councillor S.Smith seconded the following amendment to motion (deleted text ~~struckthrough~~ additional text underlined):

~~Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with her scrutiny committee options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities as soon as these can be developed by officers, and then to reconsider her decision to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan in the light of this.~~

Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with the scrutiny committee and in discussion with the Council's sport and leisure team, options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities. This should be part of a wide and comprehensive review being undertaken on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and within the context of her decision to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 18 votes to 7.

Resolved (by 20 votes to 0):

Council calls on the Executive Councillor for Planning & Transport to consider with the scrutiny committee and in discussion with the Council's sport and leisure team, options for the on-site achievement of more of the local plan policy standard for sports facilities. This should be part of a wide and comprehensive review being undertaken on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and within the context of her decision to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee to approve the currently proposed Reg 19 version of the Area Action Plan.

### **9c** Councillor Copley: Non-harmful Advertising Policy

This motion was withdrawn by Councillor Copley under Council Procedure Rule 13.

### **9d** Councillor Payne: Cambridge's Response to the Spiking Crisis

Councillor Payne proposed and Councillor Lee seconded the following motion:

Council notes:

- Drink spiking can affect anybody, but statistics show that the majority of victims, as well as those most likely to feel unsafe due to the risk of drink spiking are women and those of marginalised genders.
- That the parliamentary Home Affairs Committee opened a new enquiry into drink spiking on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- That the worrying trend of injection spiking has received a raised profile in the media recently. This highly dangerous practice has caused increased concern for users of the night-time economy.
- That there were 43 reports of drink spiking made to Cambridgeshire Constabulary between January and October 2021.
- That Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union has raised direct concerns about drink spiking in an open appeal to clubs in Cambridge to ensure there are safety measures in place to prevent drink spiking such as providing drink covers and serving drinks directly into the hands of the customer.
- That Cambridge University Students' Union has issued guidance to university event organisers to improve safety at nighttime events.
- That Cambridgeshire Constabulary have recently received a large grant to improve safety in the nighttime economy and have issued drink testing kits to clubs in Cambridge and Peterborough.

Council believes:

- Spiking is entirely the fault of the perpetrator and never the victim.
- Everyone has the right to feel and be safe at night.
- While preventative measures are required to limit the impact of drink spiking in the short-term, education is required to ensure a long-term cultural change.

Council will:

- Continue to work with our partners in the nighttime economy, including but not limited to pubs and club owners, the police and CAMBAC, to emphasise the need for urgent action to tackle drink spiking.
- Produce an easily accessible information resource to share with the universities and nighttime economy venues and publicise this through the council's channels, to educate and inform people about what to do if they believe they have been a victim of spiking, including how to take care of themselves or a friend, and where to report the incident to.
- Encourage all venues serving alcohol to provide free drink stop tops and covers to prevent spiking, as well as education for club bouncers and security staff about how to recognize and advise someone who may have been spiked or injected and commit to offering funding for this in

the next budget cycle, following an assessment of the demand and options available.

- Bring a report to the next Environment and Communities Committee to outline the activities of other partners across the city to prevent drink spiking, and to make recommendations to the Committee which identify further steps the Council can take to facilitate and support this work.

## References

Anglia Ruskin Students' Union Safer Nights Out appeal:  
<https://www.angliastudent.com/news/article/union/Safer-Nights-Out/>

Cambridge University Students' Union guidance for party organisers:  
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/jobs/BEST-Night-Out-Support-for-Event-Organisers/>

Councillor Gilderdale proposed and Councillor Collis seconded the following amendment to motion (additional text underlined):

Council notes:

- That misogyny, sexism, and gender-based violence are all rooted in inequality and an abuse of power. This form of violence is mainly committed towards women and girls, and includes stalking, harassment, and sexual abuse.
- That trans women and women of colour are also more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimisation.
- That data on gender-based violence is often inaccurate, with reporting and conviction rates remaining shockingly low.
- That, amid national debates last year around women's safety, police forces recorded a record number of rape offences in England and Wales, while the ONS reported that sexual offences had increased by 8%. Drink spiking must therefore be understood within the broader context of gender-based violence which, as a council we are actively combatting while striving to support all victims of abuse and harassment.
- People's safety across the city, particularly at night, is of utmost importance to the council and local organisations.
- Harassment and drink spiking can affect anybody, but statistics show that the majority of victims, as well as those most likely to feel unsafe due to the risk of drink spiking are women and those of marginalised genders.
- It is understood that many of these crimes go unreported yet are widely witnessed across the Night Time Economy (NTE). Statistics from a StoppTops survey show that 97% of drink spiking cases are not reported.

- That the parliamentary Home Affairs Committee opened a new enquiry into drink spiking on 12th January 2022.
- That the worrying trend of injection spiking has received a raised profile in the media recently. Both drink spiking and injection spiking are highly dangerous, premeditated, and criminal practices which have caused increased concern for users of the night-time economy.
- That there were 43 reports of drink spiking made to Cambridgeshire Constabulary between January and October 2021.
- That Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union has raised direct concerns about drink spiking in an open appeal to clubs in Cambridge to ensure there are safety measures in place to prevent drink spiking such as providing drink covers and serving drinks directly into the hands of the customer.
- That Cambridge University Students' Union has issued guidance to university event organisers to improve safety at night-time events.
- Many campaigns note that simply increased security presence in venues is not an effective deterrent for gender-based violence, and therefore we must think critically about effective ways of challenging these issues at their root.
- That Cambridgeshire Constabulary have recently received a large grant to improve safety in the night-time economy and have issued drink testing kits to clubs in Cambridge and Peterborough.
- That Cambridge BID has been awarded Purple Flag status since 2019, an award for safe management of the night-time economy (NTE). Safety is a priority area for any Purple Flag accreditation, alongside maintaining the vibrancy and diversity of nightlife in the city.
- That, in 2021, the Council ran a Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training event to increase skills, knowledge and confidence of those working in licenced premises. 15 venues attended as well as Porters' Lodges, transport, police, city council, hotel, and security staff.

Council believes:

- NTE venues across Cambridge have a duty to their patrons to create a safe environment. Spiking is entirely the fault of the perpetrator and never the victim. Therefore, it is important that all venues have appropriate procedures in place to support any victims of assault or spiking.
- Everyone has the right to feel and be safe at night, not only in venues, but in open spaces and public transport across the city. Residents' safety requires a joined-up approach working together for a safer Cambridge.

- While preventative measures are required to limit the impact of drink spiking in the short-term, education is required to ensure a long-term cultural change.

Council will:

- Work with key partner agencies across the city, taking proactive action towards the prevention of harassment and spiking, to make Cambridge a safe place for all at night.
- Explore the possibility of signing up to accreditation schemes, such as Best Bar None or Good Night Out, to set a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and spiking for all council-run events, setting a standard which can be encouraged in venues across the city.
- Continue to work with our partners in the night time economy, including but not limited to pubs, venues and club owners, Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities and Students' Unions, hospitals, Cambridge BID, the police and CAMBAC, to emphasise the need for urgent action to tackle drink spiking. In particular, close partnership working with Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities, Students' Unions and Sixth Forms who have direct contact with students who play a large role in the NTE.
- Continue running WAVE training throughout the year to ensure venue staff across the city are able to identify vulnerability and safely make appropriate interventions.
- Produce an easily accessible information resource to share with the universities and NTE venues and publicise this through the council's channels, to educate and inform people. This could include debunking common misconceptions about harassment, how to respond to harassment, speaking out if you have concerns about someone's behaviour, what to do if you believe you have been a victim of spiking, including who to go to, how to take care of yourself or a friend, and where to report the incident to.
- Encourage all venues serving alcohol to provide free drink stop tops and covers to prevent spiking, as well as education for club bouncers and security staff about how to recognize and advise someone who may have been spiked or injected and commit to offering funding for this in the next budget cycle, following an assessment of the demand and options available.
- Work with Cambridge BID to develop an application to retain our Purple Flag status for the following three years from 2022.
- Bring a report to the next Environment and Communities Committee to outline the activities of other partners across the city to prevent drink spiking, and to make recommendations to the Committee which identify further steps the Council can take to facilitate and support this work.



## References

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*Best Bar None UK*: <https://bbnuk.com/>

*Good Night Out Campaign*: <https://www.goodnightoutcampaign.org/info/>

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 21 votes to 0.

Resolved (unanimously):

Council notes:

- That misogyny, sexism, and gender-based violence are all rooted in inequality and an abuse of power. This form of violence is mainly committed towards women and girls, and includes stalking, harassment, and sexual abuse.
- That trans women and women of colour are also more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimisation.
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- Harassment and drink spiking can affect anybody, but statistics show that the majority of victims, as well as those most likely to feel unsafe due to the risk of drink spiking are women and those of marginalised genders.
- It is understood that many of these crimes go unreported yet are widely witnessed across the Night Time Economy (NTE). Statistics from a StoppTops survey show that 97% of drink spiking cases are not reported.
- That the parliamentary Home Affairs Committee opened a new enquiry into drink spiking on 12th January 2022.

- That the worrying trend of injection spiking has received a raised profile in the media recently. Both drink spiking and injection spiking are highly dangerous, premeditated, and criminal practices which have caused increased concern for users of the night-time economy.
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**Council will:**

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- Explore the possibility of signing up to accreditation schemes, such as Best Bar None or Good Night Out, to set a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and spiking for all council-run events, setting a standard which can be encouraged in venues across the city.
- Continue to work with our partners in the night time economy, including but not limited to pubs, venues and club owners, Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities and Students' Unions, hospitals, Cambridge BID, the police and CAMBAC, to emphasise the need for urgent action to tackle drink spiking. In particular, close partnership working with Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities, Students' Unions and Sixth Forms who have direct contact with students who play a large role in the NTE.
- Continue running WAVE training throughout the year to ensure venue staff across the city are able to identify vulnerability and safely make appropriate interventions.
- Produce an easily accessible information resource to share with the universities and NTE venues and publicise this through the council's channels, to educate and inform people. This could include debunking common misconceptions about harassment, how to respond to harassment, speaking out if you have concerns about someone's behaviour, what to do if you believe you have been a victim of spiking, including who to go to, how to take care of yourself or a friend, and where to report the incident to.
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- Work with Cambridge BID to develop an application to retain our Purple Flag status for the following three years from 2022.
- Bring a report to the next Environment and Communities Committee to outline the activities of other partners across the city to prevent drink spiking, and to make recommendations to the Committee which identify further steps the Council can take to facilitate and support this work.

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*Best Bar None UK: <https://bbnuk.com/>*  
*Good Night Out Campaign: <https://www.goodnightoutcampaign.org/info/>*

## **22/11/CNL Written questions**

Members were asked to note the written questions and answers contained in the information pack.

## **22/12/CNL Officer Urgent Decision**

**11a** Appointment of Council Representatives to the Conservators of the River Cam

The decision was noted.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm

**CHAIR**

## **CIVIC AFFAIRS**

16 May 2022  
5.30pm - 6.25 pm

**Present:** Councillors Davey (Vice-Chair), Bick, Dryden, Flaubert, Gawthrope Wood

### **FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**

#### **22/18/Civ – Civic Affairs: Committee Appointments and Constitutional Changes**

The report detailed the issues to consider following the local elections on 5 May 2022 and make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 May 2022. The Democratic Services Manager advised the committee that discussions were on-going amongst Group Leaders on the size of committees and proposals would be reported by the Chief Executive to the Council meeting on 26 May.

It was recommended that Area Committees continue to be held on-line whilst officers and Members review the options suggested in the Culture, Behaviours and Governance assessment by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (February 2022).

Whilst meeting on-line, decisions cannot be taken by the committee, but will be taken by the relevant officer following consideration by that committee as was the case on area committee grants in March 2022.

Recommendations concerning retaining recordings of meetings and the timing of Budget and ordinary Council meetings for February/March 2023, Committee were not taken as Committee agreed officers report back with further considered options.

**Resolved** (unanimously) to recommend to Council:

- i. Continue with Area Committees held virtually until further notice.
- ii. To note recommendations on committee sizes, Chairs and Vice Chairs will be reported to Council.

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Item

# COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL



**To:**

Civic Affairs Committee 16/05/2022

**Report by:**

Gary Clift, Democratic Services Manager

Tel: 01223 - 457011 Email: gary.clift@cambridge.gov.uk

**Wards affected:**

All

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report details the issues to consider following the local elections on 5 May 2022 and make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 26 May 2022.
- 1.2 This report is being published on 6 May, the day the results of the city council elections are known, but the implications of them are yet to be worked through by officers and political groups. Therefore, there will be updated information published on 16 May, before the committee meeting.

## 2. Recommendations

To recommend to Council:

- (i) The city council committees and the nominations to the joint and partner bodies in paragraph 3.3 (as updated on 16 May).
- (ii) The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs in paragraph 3.4 (as updated on 16 May).

- (iii) Any Constitutional updates required as set out in 3.6 and/or circulated before committee.
- (iv) To continue with virtual Area Committees until further notice.
- (v) To agree that recorded meetings are removed from the Council's You Tube channel after one year and to support the continuation of hybrid meetings as set out in 3.7
- (vi) To give guidance on Council meetings for February/March 2023 (3.8)

### **3. Background**

#### **Appointing Committees**

3.1 The rules on political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply to both scrutiny and regulatory committee composition so that, once the size of committees has been determined, the division of seats among the political groups on the Council will be automatic and the Council must appoint those members which each political group puts forward for its seats.

In considering the allocation of committee places to political groups, the Council is legally required to take into account the following principles:

- i) That the controlling group should have a majority of seats on each committee.
- ii) That the total number of committee places allocated to each political group must be in proportion to the number of members of that group on the Council.
- iii) That on each committee the number of places allocated to each political group must be in proportion to the number of members of that group on the Council.

The order of precedence of these principles is the order in which they are given - i.e. (i) takes highest priority, then (ii) then (iii).

For May 2021, 42 councillors made up of 27 Labour, 12 Lib Dem and 3 Green/Independent, translated proportionally against a seat availability on ordinary committees of 58 seats at 36, 18 and 4 respectively. If you choose to depart from proportionality, Full Council must not only agree, but no single Member must dissent.



## Alternate Members of Committees

3.2 The Council (or committees in respect of sub-committees) will appoint an alternate member in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee and two in the case of the major Scrutiny Committees for groups with more than one committee member (although a Group may choose to appoint just one). Unlike a substitute system, the city council use an Alternate Member where the councillor is a named member from a political group and (preferably) unchanged for the whole municipal year. The Alternate Member will sit in for any member of the same political group who is unable to attend a meeting.

3.3 The proportionality for both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee is set by the Combined Authority and the Council will be notified if it changes following elections on 5 May.

<b>Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 10 (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem+1 G/I)
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<b>Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 10 (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 G/I)
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<b>Housing Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem +1 G/I)
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<b>Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem)
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<b>Civic Affairs Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
--

<b>Licensing Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 10 (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1G/I)
--

<b>Planning Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 7 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
--

<b>Employment (Senior Officer) Committee</b>
--

Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
--

<b>Employment Appeals Sub-Committee</b>
Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)

<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority</b>
Current Numbers - 1 (Leader of the Council) + 1 substitute (Deputy Leader)

<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (numbers may change after elections)</b>
Current Numbers - 2 Labour + 1 Labour alternate

<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee (numbers may change after elections)</b>
Current Numbers 1 Labour + 1 Labour alternate

<b>Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly</b>
Current Numbers- 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

<b>Joint Development Control Committee</b>
Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + alternates)

### **Chairs and Vice Chairs**

3.4 The Civic Affairs Committee is requested to make nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs to the committees listed. A paper with any nominations will be circulated on 16 May:

Strategy and Resources  
 Environment and Community Services  
 Planning and Transport  
 Housing (note - Chair is a Councillor, the Vice Chair is a tenant/leaseholder)

Civic Affairs  
 Licensing  
 Planning  
 Joint Development Control Committee (City is due to Chair for 2022/23)

### **Committee working parties and appointments to outside bodies**

- 3.5 Procedural meetings of the relevant scrutiny and regulatory committees are held at an adjourned point during the Annual Meeting of the Council to confirm working parties and to note the membership of them. Executive Councillors also agree appointments to outside bodies.

## **Constitutional matters**

### **3.6 Virtual Area Committees**

It is recommended that Area Committees continue to be held on-line whilst officers and Members review the options suggested in the Culture, Behaviours and Governance assessment by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (February 2022).

Whilst meeting on-line, decisions cannot be taken by the committee, but will be taken by the relevant officer following consideration by that committee as was the case on area committee grants in March 2022.

### **3.7 Hybrid meetings**

The Council has been successfully running hybrid meetings from the Council Chamber since January 2022 and has meant contributions from Members, officers and the public could continue via Teams. This has proved very popular whilst society adapted to the gradual move to 'living with Covid'.

The more the hybrid meeting option is used and becomes an accepted norm, there is the risk that it sometimes may not work - so it is important to note that although participating in a hybrid way is a positive addition to decision making, the law requires decision makers be present in person to be able to make a decision and the public are reminded that they can attend meetings in person and if there is a technical issue, the meeting can and should continue. Democratic officers encourage public statements to be emailed in advance so that they can be read out if there are technical issues and public speakers register by noon two working days before the meeting so there is reasonable time to prepare for the meeting.

Since January, meetings have been streamed live to the Council's You Tube channel. They are then available as a recording. It is proposed that meetings remain on You Tube for one year after which time they are removed. Before January 2022, meetings from May 2020-April 2021

were available for 6 months (via Teams Live). Officers will review what is being practiced nationally as Councils get better at, and learn from, hybrid democratic decision making.

### **3.8 Council Meetings – February and March 2023**

Members agreed to split the Council agenda in February 2022 so that the budget was debated at a stand-alone meeting, with other business adjourned to be dealt with the following week. The Committee is asked to consider whether the same approach should be taken in 2023 or that there is a bigger gap between the two Council meetings and officers report back with options.

## **4. Implications**

**(a) Financial Implications** Not holding Area Committees in person will save approximately £5,000 in a full year (audio provision and room hire).

**(b) Staffing Implications** Running hybrid meetings requires two officers to manage the meeting.

**(c) Equality and Poverty Implications** Hybrid meetings offer an additional way to access the Council's decision making.

**(d) Environmental Implications** Hybrid meetings offers less travel required by some participants.

**(e) Procurement Implications** not applicable

**(f) Community Safety Implications** not applicable

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

None

## **6. Contact**

If you have a query on the report please contact Gary Clift, Democratic Services Manager, tel: 01223 - 457011, email: [gary.clift@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:gary.clift@cambridge.gov.uk).