

Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 21 July 2022

Time: 6.00 pm

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, 21 July 2022 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 13 July 2022

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

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| 1 | Minutes | (Pages 13 - 50) |
| 2 | Mayor's announcements | |
| 3 | Public questions time | |
| 4 | To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption | |
| 4a | Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Report 2021/22 (Executive Councillor for Housing) | (Pages 51 - 74) |
| 4b | Annual Treasury Management (Outturn) Report 2021/22 (Executive Councillor for Finance, | (Pages 75 - 98) |

Resources and Transformation)

- 4c General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances Report (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation) (Pages 99 - 132)
- 4d Budget for Land Acquisition (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation) (Pages 133 - 146)
- The report contains exempt information during which the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by Council following consideration of a public interest test. This exclusion would be made under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4e Appointment to Conservators of the River Cam (Executive Councillor Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development) (Pages 147 - 148)
- 5 To deal with oral questions
- 6 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 6a Councillor Robertson - Fireworks and Pets as prizes

This Council notes:

Effects of Loud Fireworks on Animals

1. Studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs¹, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks². A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.³
2. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.
3. The RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held so they can focus on locations and incidents elsewhere.
4. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but

owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as local wildlife

¹ Blackwell, E., Bradshaw, J., & Casey, R. (2013). Fear responses to noises in domestic dogs: Prevalence, risk factors and co-occurrence with other fear related behaviour. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 15-25.

² Blackwell, E., Casey, R., & Bradshaw, J. (2005). Firework Fears and Phobias in the Domestic Dog. Scientific Report for the RSPCA, University of Bristol, UK

³ Gronqvist, G, Rogers, C. & Gee, E. (2016). The Management of Horses during Fireworks in New Zealand. *Animals* 6(20).

Pets as prizes

5. That the RSPCA
 - a. receives reports of pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England – and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish
 - b. is concerned for the welfare of those animals
 - c. recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year
 - d. supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.

6. That the city council has an existing policy that does not permit the use of live creatures as prizes at any event including circuses and funfairs on the Council's parks and open spaces,

The Council agrees to:

- A. To encourage the organisers of all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- B. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- C. To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce

- legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- D. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.
 - E. To encourage others in Cambridge to also ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form.
 - F. write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private

6b Councillor Payne - BBC Look East

Cambridge City Council notes the recent announcement by the BBC to cease production of the Look East regional news output from Cambridge and only broadcast a regional news programme based in Norwich.

The 2021 census shows that the East of England has experienced the highest population increase across the English regions and Wales. Cambridge is a key city in the region due to its rapid employment growth.

Reducing BBC Look East's operations to Norwich only will mean vital local stories in Cambridge, which may have significance across the region, may be missed. We believe that effective scrutiny is a key to good democracy and local journalists are a crucial part of this

Cambridge City Council expresses deep concern over the plans and believes that as a growing area our region requires more, not less, investment in local journalism.

Council therefore agrees

1. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of the BBC to oppose these cuts to local and regional news.
2. To seek support from other local authorities to highlight the growing importance of our region and that more, not less, local journalism should be focussed on the area in general.

6c Councillor Howard - Private Renters Charter

This Council resolves to update and publish a Private Renters Charter on its website, and in Cambridge Matters and to review it for updates at 6 month intervals.

The Council also resolves to consult with the Landlords Steering

Group and local advisory bodies including Cambridge ACORN, Citizens Advice Bureau.

The purpose of this consultation is to:

- agree ways to improve renters' knowledge of their rights and encourage new renters to take advice before they sign agreements to protect their deposits and other rights, not when they encounter problems,
- reach out to smaller landlords who are particularly likely to be using outdated, non compliant and overly onerous rental agreements and encourage the adoption of kinder, more modern agreements.
- This could include taking information stands at Freshers' Fairs, Cambridge Pride, Job Fairs and the Big Weekend

To report back to council quarterly on progress.

Notes:

- 1 42% of Cambridge households live in private rented accommodation.
- 2 Survey after survey reveals low levels of awareness of renters' legal rights not just among renters but even landlords.
- 3 Greater awareness of rights can prevent loss of deposits and reduce the risk of eviction.
- 4 A white paper to improve renters rights was published in June 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-fairer-private-rented-sector/a-fairer-private-rented-sector>
- 5 With the current political instability we cannot predict if or when these proposals may become law. We cannot wait to take action but we also need to plan to update any action we take if new laws are enacted.
- 6 Supporting Cambridge's private renters is particularly important because they are the biggest group of households in the city.
- 7 Residents from abroad may be used to more favourable rental regimes in their previous home countries and may be unprepared for the UK system.
- 8 Model Private Renters Charters can be found here

https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20410/norwich_private_renters_charter

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/housing/Private_housing/Renters_charter/Tower_Hamlets_Private_Renters_Charter.aspx

6d Councillor Copley - Rivers, safe swimming and sewage

Background

Cambridge residents are deeply concerned about water quality and the impact of wastewater discharge, including untreated sewage, into the River Cam and its tributaries. Studies by the Cam Valley Forum show that sewage treatment works run by Anglian Water are the greatest source of faecal pathogens in the River Cam¹.

These are a major concern in relation to health of those who come into contact with the water, whether for work or leisure, - swimming in the River is increasingly popular. In addition high levels of nitrate and phosphate and low levels of dissolved oxygen have a major negative impact on the ecological health of the river and streams.

The main sources of pollution are the numerous small village sewage works that are often totally overloaded and no longer fit for purpose and have failed to prevent sewage pollution of the Cam, Rhee and Granta rivers, upstream and downstream of Cambridge. Releasing sewage into rivers and streams is no longer an emergency-only situation occurring as a result of severe storms, but is a regular occurrence even in 'normal' rainfall.

While Anglian Water have made long term commitments to making progress as set out in the notes, there are no plans in place to address the immediate unacceptable situation.

Motion

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise the challenges facing our rivers and streams due to the cumulative impact of sewage discharge events.
2. Engage with the Environment Agency as part of the forthcoming water resources management planning exercise (see notes) and seek to ensure that investment in the foul water treatment focuses on reducing discharges from existing treatment works into the rivers and streams in Cambridgeshire.
3. Organise a public meeting to discuss sewage discharge, its impacts on the City and priorities for action, inviting the Chief Executive of Anglian Water plus senior representatives from the

¹ Cam Valley Forum 2022 "Response to the Consultation on the Government's DEFRA Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan"

Environment Agency and Natural England and South Cambridgeshire.

4. Ask Anglian Water for clear information on all the treatment works that have an impact on the quality of water flowing through Cambridge: whether information is available to assess the impact of the number or duration of sewage discharges into the Cam catchment, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested, not required).

Notes:

1. Anglian Water have stated:

“We agree that storm overflows are no longer fit for purpose, especially as our climate is changing and extreme weather is more commonplace.

Cambridge Independent 15 May 2022

2. The company are currently running a consultation and have stated:

Our draft DWMP indicates that over the next 25 years, investment of up to £3.5 billion is needed to address the future risks highlighted in our DWMP, as well as fixing some existing problems. And please note, while we await outputs from the Storm Overflow Action Plan this estimate of investment doesn't include the assessment of costs required to meet the new storm overflow targets

3. Anglian Water's draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan is currently out for consultation (30 June - 16 September): <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/drainage-wastewater-management-plan/draft-plan/> . Final version to be published Spring 2023. The plan itself is here: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>

6e Councillor Carling - Cost of Living Emergency

Context:

Our residents are facing a cost-of-living emergency. According to the Office for National Statistics, [88% of adults in the Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living](#) in May 2022, due to a range of factors including rising inflation, increases in energy prices and

government tax rises.

The cost of living has been increasing across the UK since early 2021. [in April 2022, inflation reached its highest recorded level](#), and the ONS estimates that it is now higher than at any time since around 1982, affecting the affordability of goods and services for households. Consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), were 9.0% higher in April 2022 than a year before. On 5 May, [the Bank of England forecasted inflation to peak “at slightly over 10% in 2022 Q4, which would be the highest rate since 1982”](#). and predicted that it would remain above 9% up to and including Q1 2023.

Energy prices are another important driver of inflation , with both household energy tariffs and petrol costs increasing. From April 2021 to April 2022, domestic gas prices increased by 95% and domestic electricity prices by 54%. This is due in part to a [return of global gas demand as pandemic restrictions are lifted](#) and lower than normal production of natural gas. On 1 April 2022 the new price cap came into force. The regulator Ofgem announced [the cap would increase from its current equivalent annual level of £1,277 per year to £1,971](#); a 54% increase. As a result, road fuel prices in the UK have increased and energy bills may also rise further. The chief Executive of Ofgem said on 24 May that [he expected the price cap to increase to around £2,800 in October 2022](#), an increase of around 40%.

Food prices have also risen sharply, with incomes and benefits failing to keep pace. According to the British Retail Consortium, food inflation rose to 4.3% in May 2022, up from 3.5% in April, and has now reached its highest since April 2012. Fresh food has been particularly affected by price rises. The ONS has shown that a study of supermarket prices showed that even staple budget items like pasta rose 50% in the year to April 2022.

Alongside price increases, in April 2022, the Government also brought in tax rises, for both income tax and National Insurance contributions (NICs).

Council notes:

- That the Cost-of-Living emergency is a key issue for us as a local authority, against a backdrop of financial factors at national and international level.
- In these increasingly difficult times, there is a for us as a local authority to ensure advice and appropriate support is available to

all residents.

- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on low-income households, which will spend a larger proportion of their income than average on energy and food and will therefore be more affected by price increases and tax rises that result in reduced disposable income.
- The work we are currently undertaking as a city council *across all departments* to support the most vulnerable residents, including:
 - increasing our council housing stock, with over 540 new council homes already completed
 - retrofitting our existing council housing stock to help reduce fuel bills and also supporting fuel-poor homeowners with retrofitting initiatives
 - running a Real Living Wage campaign, paying our own staff a Real Living Wage and encouraging employers across the city to do the same
 - providing an extensive range of community grants to organisations supporting residents
 - addressing the digital divide during the pandemic and beyond
 - building on our strong track record of fighting for food justice, including continuing our support for the city's network of food hubs
- That, while many of the economic factors causing the current cost of living crisis are outside of our control as a local authority, it is *essential* that we focus our efforts on providing the assistance we *do* have at our disposal to those residents struggling the most.

Council resolves to:

- Ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency, alongside working with our partners.
- Set up a dedicated officer working group to address the cost-of-living emergency.
- Address health and fuel inequalities through our health and heating project, which will employ a multi-layered approach that provides targeted support, working closely with community and

voluntary sector partners.

- Build food justice and address food insecurity by making Cambridge a Right to Food City. This means that we will:
 - Call on national government to enshrine the right to food in law
 - Write to the Secretary of State *together with the Food Poverty Alliance* asking them to strengthen the National Food Strategy to ensure that it provides support for people struggling to eat in this cost-of-living crisis.
 - Continue our support of the city's food hubs and commit to working with our communities and members of the Food Poverty Alliance to form a vision of what the Right to Food looks like for Cambridge.
- Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most, through introducing a socio-economic duty and separately considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments.
- Continue campaigning for and championing a real living wage for workers in our city, especially working closely with employers.
- Commit to working with others to ensure that we can harness both the good will and the wealth in our city to benefit all our residents.
- Review our small grants programme to make it easier for local groups supporting those struggling to get funding from our community grants.

6f Councillor Bick - Waste Reduction and Recycling Rates

Noting from the recent report of corporate performance that blue bin recycling rates have decreased over the past year and the proportion of black bin waste has increased, council requests a report to the next Environment & Community Scrutiny committee enabling focused scrutiny of this situation and examination of potential emphases to reverse these trends and get back on track.

7 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
- 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.

Should you wish to attend in person, we always ask you to maintain social distancing and 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 by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.