

Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 20 October 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, 20 October 2022 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 12 October 2022

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

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| 1 | Minutes | (Pages 9 - 42) |
| 2 | Mayor's announcements | |
| 3 | Public questions time | |
| 4 | To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption | |
| 4a | Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 (Executive Councillor for Housing) | (Pages 43 - 148) |
| 4b | Appointment to Conservators of the River Cam (Executive Councillor Open Spaces, Food Justice) | (Pages 149 - 150) |

and Community Development)

- 4c Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority-city council appointments (Leader of the Council)
- 4d Council Tax Reduction Local Scheme April 2023-March 2026 (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation) (Pages 151 - 184)
- 4e Treasury Management half yearly report 2022/23 (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation) (Pages 185 - 208)
- 4f General Fund Medium Term Strategy 2022 (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation) (Pages 209 - 248)
- 5 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 5a Civic Affairs Committee: Amendment to Contract Procedure Rules (Pages 249 - 256)
- 5b Civic Affairs Committee: Review of the Budget Setting Process and Wider Financial Governance Issues (Pages 257 - 270)
- 5c Civic Affairs Committee: Proposal to Increase the current Cambridge Weighting for Employees and Agency Workers (Pages 271 - 278)
- 5d Civic Affairs Committee: Review of the Pensions Discretions Statement (Pages 279 - 288)
- 6 To deal with oral questions
- 7 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 7a Councillor Bick and Councillor A.Smith - The Future of Local Bus Services

This Council:

Deplores Stagecoach's plan to withdraw 18 bus services across the county, noting the potential loss of independence and financial cost incurred by those who have relied on them, such as those students left without means of getting to sixth form college and CRC;

Believes that this further underlines the failure of the deregulated and purely commercial bus service in our area;

Supports measures by the CPCA Mayor Nik Johnson to protect these services beyond the end of October, should Stagecoach not be persuaded to rethink;

Calls on the Mayor to accelerate consideration of franchising bus services in our area, in particular noting the way this would complement the draft proposals 'Making Connections' from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, which could enable a longer term transformation of services;

Encourages Cambridge people to participate in the public consultation on the GCP's 'Making Connections' proposals, giving feedback on them to shape progress on the agenda of cutting congestion, improving mobility for all, enhancing our public realm and reducing carbon emissions from transport.

7b Councillor Nethsingha - The cost of living crisis and the impact of Brexit

Council notes

- The devastating impact the recent fiscal event from Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng has had on costs facing the majority of UK households through prompting a falling pound and and increased interest rates;
- That this sits on top of not only the energy shortage caused by Putin's invasion of Ukraine over which we have limited influence, but also the inflationary effect and the constraints on trade and migration arising from Brexit, which is leaving us all relatively poorer overtime;

This Council calls on MPs of all parties, especially Daniel Zeichner as MP for Cambridge and Keir Starmer as Leader of the Opposition to:

- be clear of that Brexit remains a key and persistent cause of the cost of living crisis which is completely unique to the UK and
- recognise that a closer relationship with the EU, and in particular the restoration of free movement of goods and people is critical to tackling the cost of living crisis and securing sustainable growth, the absence of which disadvantages us all.

7c Councillor Collis and Councillor Carling - Tackling

the Energy and Cost of Living Crisis Fairly

Inadequate action by national government on the energy crisis, and its failure to levy a sizeable energy company windfall tax, places the burden of spiralling energy costs on residents and businesses. The impacts of these failures and inadequacies will be far-reaching, meaning an extremely difficult winter for many and leaving a sizeable debt to pay off in the future. It will exacerbate the damage to jobs and real incomes caused by Government failure to reduce excessive inflation.

As research by the University of York Social Policy Unit projects, 91% of pensioner couples and 90% of couples with 3 children will find themselves soon spending 10% of their income on energy bills, and researchers' projections indicate that three quarters of UK households are likely to fall into food poverty by January 2023.

Cambridge City Council has set out a clear plan at the local level to address fuel poverty across the autumn and winter, including;

- Securing funding from the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) for a Heating and Health Project, working with South and East Cambridgeshire District Councils to co-produce local solutions supporting residents who will be at risk of health harms due to the cold and cost of living crisis this winter.
- establishing a network of cost-of-living advice hubs, where residents will be able to get advice on how to reduce their fuel bills.
- working with partners across the city to provide warm spaces, for residents who are struggling to heat their homes.
- issuing cost of living micro grants that groups of residents can apply to for support.
- Delivering £6.5m of Sustainable Warmth funding across Cambridgeshire to increase the energy efficiency of homes for the most vulnerable.
- continuing to insulate our council homes, with a further 100 identified for works.
- Making a £10,000 contribution to the Food Poverty Alliance's (FPA) Cambridge Cost of Food and Living Crisis crowd-funding campaign

However, council notes that the burden of intervention is falling disproportionately onto local authorities, which are already hit by those same rising energy costs and inflationary pressures. Following on

from our March 2022 motion on fuel poverty and July motion on the cost of living, the Council calls for a far stronger plan of action from national government and demands that ministers;

1. Undertake a mid-year review and uprate benefits for 2022/23 to account for additional in-year non-energy inflation affecting household costs since the annual review, and not renege on their commitment to pensioners and those on benefits in order to help pay for tax cuts to high earners.
2. Withdraw the selective tax cuts proposed from November apart from the 1p income tax cut, and ensure the tax changes are fair to all.
3. Apply a further windfall tax on energy producing companies, in addition to the modest tax levied in the summer, in line with the tax asked for by council in its March motion.
4. Require OFGEM to review and reduce the electricity price formula to give all energy users a fairer deal, by ending their approach of basing it on the most expensive route to generate electricity, which is currently gas.

A copy of the motion will be sent to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and forwarded to our local MPs, asking that they support its proposals and comment in response.

7d Councillor Holloway and Councillor Pounds - Private Rental Sector in Cambridge

The Council Notes

1. That according to research by Savills in 2021, 42% of households in Cambridge live in private rented accommodation.
2. That the strong rental market in Cambridge has led to high rental prices in the city, as displayed by Savills research from Aug 2020-21 where average rental prices increased by 4.1% in a year.
3. The City Council's 2019 review of homelessness and rough sleeping found that one of the most common causes of people becoming homeless in Cambridge were because of the loss of a private rented home.
4. The 2021 Census showed that Cambridge's population has been growing at almost three times the national average during the past decade (17.6% since 2011).
5. According to Government research, '*many low income households may have little choice over which property to rent because of the budget they have available*'. While 1/3 of

privately rented homes in the UK don't meet the government's Decent Homes Standard.

6. Requests to Citizens Advice Bureau regarding help for private tenants are most typically about 'repairs and maintenance', 'rents and other charges' and 'tenancy deposit protection'.

The Council Believes

1. Having a safe, secure and affordable home is vital.
2. That with such a growing population, house prices rising even faster, and without adequate funding for the council and housing associations to build affordable housing, the private rental sector in Cambridge is going to continue growing.
3. Tenants who may have little choice over rental properties may feel reluctant to complain about housing problems because they fear being evicted or are restricted by their budgets.
4. That as a city we should aspire for all residents to be living in safe, legal and adequate homes.
5. That working closely with private renters in Cambridge will allow us to better identify issues which can be addressed collaboratively.

The Council Resolves

1. To convene a Private Renters' Forum to consult with private tenants in the city, including stakeholder groups such as ACORN, Students' Unions and Citizens Advice Bureau.
2. To notify Councillors at an All Member Briefing on plans for the Forum, and ensure information about the forum is shared widely.
3. Through the Forum, work with private renters to discuss how the Council can best support and advocate for private renters in the city.
4. To re-consider the need for a Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme in the light of the 2021 census data when it becomes available.
5. To continue to put high priority on work to ensure that all HMOs in the city are inspected, improved if needed, and licensed.
6. To ensure the relevant information on the Council's website (currently listed here: www.cambridge.gov.uk/private-rented-accommodation) is reviewed and promoted.
7. To look into providing resources in other languages which are spoken in the city.
8. To continue working via the Council's Landlord Steering Group to reach out to landlords in the city and ensure there is always private tenant representation on the Landlord Steering Group, either through ACORN or other local organisations.

- 8 Written questions
No discussion will take place on this item. Members will be asked to note the written questions and answers document as circulated around the Chamber.
- 9 Officer Urgent Decision
- 9a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - Appointment of the Council's Substitute Member (Pages 289 - 290)

Information for the public

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- 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.

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