



## Cambridge City Council Notice of Council

**Date:** Thursday, 23 May 2024

**Time:** 11.05 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, 23 May 2024 at 11.05 am and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 15 May 2024

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

### Agenda

- 1 To elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25
- 2 To elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25
- 3 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on the 15 February and 29 February 2024
- 4 To note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been elected to the Office of Councillor  
Abbey – Naomi Bennett

(Pages 13 - 44)

Arbury – Patrick Sheil  
Castle – Antoinette Nestor  
Cherry Hinton – Mark Ashton  
Coleridge – Tim Griffin  
East Chesterton – Gerri Bird  
King’s Hedges – Jenny Gawthrop Wood  
Market – Tim Bick  
Newnham – Hugh Clough  
Petersfield – Mike Davey  
Queen Edith’s – Immy Blackburn-Horgan  
Romsey – Dave Baigent  
Trumpington – Nadya Lokhmotova  
West Chesterton – Sam Carling

- 5 To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor
- 6 Mayor's announcements
- 7 Declarations of Interest
- 8 To elect from among the Members of the Council Four Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2024/25
- 9 To elect a Leader of the Council  
The Council is required to appoint a Leader of the Council. Article 7.3 of the Constitution states:
- The Leader will be a councillor elected to the position by the Council and will remain as Leader until the day of the Annual Meeting of the Council in the year their term of office ends or until:
1. death or disqualification; or
  2. resignation from the office; or
  3. removal from office by resolution of the Council.
- 10 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 10a Civic Affairs Committee - Committee Appointments (Pages 45 - 60)
- 10b Civic Affairs Committee - Governance Review Proposals (Pages 61 - 66)
- 11 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.

- 12 Public questions time
- 13 To deal with oral questions
- 14 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 14a Councillor Bick - Vision for Cambridge

COUNCIL BELIEVES that ‘good growth’ in and around Cambridge is possible, if planned with care for sustainability. Evidence already gathered by local councils indicates that this should be provided for, in particular to alleviate poor housing conditions and rising costs, which are not only a source of division and inequality, but also jeopardise our vital public services and limit businesses which are directly or indirectly dependent on our unique concentration of research and innovation for advancement in the world.

WE POINT TO the records of parties which have recently led this council and South Cambridgeshire in delivering new communities meeting a wide spectrum of needs and means, and in nurturing the success of the local economy.

WE WELCOME a role for central government in addressing key factors beyond the scope of local councils, particularly in ensuring investment in water supply, transport infrastructure and social housing – the absence of which would result in unsustainable growth, which the city would not be able to support.

But WE ARE HUGELY CONCERNED by arbitrary government housing targets and unsubstantiated proposals for a development corporation and planning intervention, which cast locally elected representatives of residents as mere outside advisors or minority participants in the shaping of the future of our own area in an accountable way.

WE RESOLVE to challenge this ‘power grab’ by central government; to seek instead a genuine partnership, and to strengthen the local democratic component of this by pursuing the creation of a unitary council which brings together most local decision-making and service provision into one new body.

And WE RECOMMIT to locally-led, evidence-based planning and to development that is above all sustainable, both socially and environmentally.

## 14b Councillor Moore - Climate & Ecology Bill

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

The Climate & Ecology Bill, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

The Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed to at COP15,); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21.

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

This council notes that:

- This council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019.
- This council declared a bio-diversity emergency in May 2019
- Cambridge is one of 119 Global Cities named Climate Action Leaders on the Carbon Disclosure Project 2023 A List. A-List cities are taking four times as many climate mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A Listers.
- Cambridge City Council is ranked second amongst all UK District councils by Climate Action Scorecards (run by Climate Emergency UK) on actions we have taken to reach net zero in 2023.
- In our Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 we set a target for the Council to be net zero carbon in our direct emissions by

2030 and our Carbon Management Plan explains how we plan to achieve it.

- Our Change Strategy 2021-2026 also sets out a vision for Cambridge City to be net zero carbon by 2030 but we need a more ambitious policy framework and increased investment from national government in order to achieve that.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents and the local press of this decision;
3. Write to our MP Daniel Zeichner to inform him that this motion has been passed, and urge him to sign up to support the CE Bill.
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Cambridge City Council's support.

*The purpose of this motion is to support the Climate and Nature Bill. A short description of the bill and the actions requested of the council follows: A history of the bill and links to further reading are provided for convenience.*

Cambridge City Council notes that:

- The Climate and Nature Bill would require the UK government to make a full plan to protect us from the climate emergency and threats to the natural world.
- That such a plan is needed to reverse global warming and loss of plants, animals and people.

In particular, the Bill would require the government to commit to the following actions:

- Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together;
  - i. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;
  - ii. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030; the existing Environment Act aims only to halt the decline of nature by 2030.
  - iii. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
  - iv. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
  - v. Providing for retraining of people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
  - vi. Giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through an independent and temporary Climate & Nature Assembly, representative of the UK population, an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required. Weaning ourselves off fossil fuels means big changes, which is why it's important that everyone is on board with them.

Cambridge City Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill;

2. Inform local residents, and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to Daniel Zeichner MP and Anthony Browne MP to inform them that this motion has been passed and urging them to sign up to support the Bill;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CAN Bill, expressing its support ([campaign@zerohour.uk](mailto:campaign@zerohour.uk)).
5. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP asking him to confirm his party's support for the bill and requesting that the bill be upgraded from a private members' bill to a government bill should there be a change of government.

Background Notes (not part of active motion):

#### History

1. The 2024 version of the Climate and Nature Bill was introduced by Labour MP, Alex Sobel on 21 March 2024 and will receive a second reading on 17 May 2024.
2. Previous versions were introduced by Green MP Caroline Lucas (twice) and Labour's Olivia Blake (once)
3. A petition requesting support for the Bill was submitted to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee by local Green party officers with advice from the Zero Hour campaign group on 21 March 2024 and was approved by councillors including Cllrs Glasberg and Moore.
4. The Bill is backed by over 180 cross-party MPs and Peers, 354 local authorities, numerous eminent scientists, businesses, and environmental organisations and 42,000 members of the public.

#### Further Reading

##### History of bill

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_and\\_Ecological\\_Emergency\\_Bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_and_Ecological_Emergency_Bill)

##### Zero Hour briefing

<https://www.zerohour.uk/downloads/climate-and-nature-bill-briefing.pdf>

##### Text of Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3707>



*The purpose of this motion is to raise awareness and support the 2024 Disabled People's Manifesto and to stand with disabled residents, their carers and their families in the face of the continuing national government's attack on their lives and rights.*

The 2024 Disability Rights UK Manifesto is a four point plan to create a society where everyone has equal life chances and is valued and treated equally.

The four points are:

### **1. Representation and Voice**

Removal of barriers for disabled people to participate in political and public life.

### **2. Rights**

The full rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("UNCRPD")

### **3. Independence**

The right to live independently with choice and control over the support given.

### **4. Inclusion**

Plans for every aspect of life to address specific needs of disabled people from the outset.

Although Cambridge City Council is not a unitary authority and social services are provided by the county council, it is very much aware of the impact of the services that it does provide on the lives of disabled residents. Housing, the planning service and the public realm are critical to the life chances of disabled people. Even basic services such as contact with the public can present extra challenges to disabled people and carers.

The council accepts that it has an important part to play in supporting the lives of its disabled residents and indeed all the residents who are affected by their own or another person's disability.

However, no council can do this work alone. Central government



support is needed.

**Accordingly, Cambridge City Council resolves to:**

1. Sign the Manifesto as an organisation;
2. Raise awareness of the Local Government Association Disability Champions Network with both council officers and councillors.
3. Write to Daniel Zeichner MP and Anthony Browne MP to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to sign the Manifesto;
4. Write to Sir Keir Starmer MP asking him to confirm his party's support for the Manifesto and opposition to the current government's proposed attacks on the dignity and rights of Disabled People

**Further Reading**

Disability Rights UK

<https://www.disabledpeoplesmanifesto.com/manifesto>

Local Government Disability Champions Network ("LGDCN")

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/equalities-hub/local-government-disability-champions-network-lgdcn>

United Nations Convention On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

14e Councillor Gilderdale - Motion on Palestine-Israel

**This Council notes:**

- a. The City Council's three previous statements ([19th October](#), [15th February](#), [29th February](#)) which condemned the attack by Hamas on the 7th October and called for 'an immediate ceasefire, the return of hostages, unfettered access for humanitarian aid, peace in the Middle East, international support for a two-State solution and the upholding of international law.'
- b. That since October 7th, according to the Gaza health ministry, the present Israeli Government has [killed over 34,000 Palestinians, with over 77,000 wounded](#) and [10,000 feared](#)

buried under the rubble in Gaza.

- c. That the UN Secretary-General, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others have said that Israel has committed grave violations of international law in its assault on Palestine. The International Court of Justice has ruled that there was a risk of irreparable harm to the Palestinian right to be protected from genocide.
- d. UN experts including Special Rapporteurs Ben Saul, Margaret Satterthwaite and Independent Expert Cecilia Bailliet have warned that 'any transfer of weapons or ammunition to Israel that would be used in Gaza is likely to violate international humanitarian law and must cease immediately'.
- e. That the UK continues to sell arms to Israel which are being used in the ongoing conflict. They may be used in a way that creates further human suffering and prolong the conflict. By providing arms and military support to Israel, the UK Government could be complicit in this catastrophe.
- f. That since 2015, the UK has licensed at least £474 million worth of military exports to Israel, including components for combat aircrafts, missiles, tanks, technology, small arms and ammunition. The UK provides approximately 15% of the components in the F-35 stealth bomber aircraft currently being used in Gaza.
- g. In 2009, under a Labour government, the UK suspended arms licenses for naval guns due to their use against civilians in Gaza. In 2014, under a Conservative-led government, the UK said it would suspend licenses if hostilities resumed in Gaza.
- h. A cross-party group of 134 parliamentarians have signed a letter to Foreign Secretary David Cameron and Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch MP, asking for them to immediately suspend export licenses for arms transfers to Israel.
- i. On 8th May 2024, President Biden confirmed that the US had blocked an arms shipment of thousands of heavy bombs to Israel over fears that they could be used during Israel's military operation in Rafah. Following this news, a former UK national security adviser has criticised Rishi Sunak for failing to suspend arms sales to Israel.

**This Council calls on the current and any future UK Government to:**

- a. Press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine and to make every effort to resume the peace process.
- b. Work to ensure that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws.
- c. Work to ensure that civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access of medical supplies, food, fuel and water.
- d. To immediately revoke all licences for arms exports to Israel and suspend arms sales to Israel.

**In addition, this Council will:**

- a. Investigate the implications of stopping banking with Barclays - which is [known for investing over £2 billion in](#), and providing financial services to companies arming Israel worth £6.1 billion - and instead banking with an ethical bank.
- b. Continue to condemn all forms of Islamophobia and Antisemitism and work to champion a city free from hate, including in the Council's work to make Cambridge a City of Sanctuary.

15 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

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak 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.

**The full text of any public question must be submitted in writing by noon two working days before the date of the meeting or it will not be accepted. All questions submitted by the deadline will be published on the meeting webpage before the meeting is held.**

Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.

**COUNCIL**15 February 2024  
6.00 pm – 11.15pm

**Present:** Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Carling, Davey, Divkovic, Flaubert, Gawthrop Wood, Gilderdale, Griffin, Hauk, Healy, Holloway, Hossain, Howard, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Swift, Thittala Varkey, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

Also present (virtually) Councillors: Lee and Sheil

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****24/1/CNL Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Dryden, Glasberg, Levien and Martinelli. Councillor Flaubert provided apologies for lateness.

Councillors Lee and Sheil attended the meeting virtually.

**24/2/CNL Declarations of Interest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Baigent	All	Personal: Member of Cambridge Cycling Campaign.
Councillor Simon Smith	24/6/CNLa and 24/7/CNLa	Personal: Director of Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP).
Councillor Bird	24/6/CNLa and 24/7/CNLa	Personal: Director of Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP).
Councillor Ashton	24/7/CNLa	Personal: Chair of Cherry Hinton Residents Association.

**24/3/CNL Minutes**

The minutes of the 30 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**24/4/CNL Mayor's announcements**

The mayor extended sympathy to all people suffering from terrorism and war.

The mayor noted it was 3 months since they had made their statement at the October Council meeting about the situation in Israel and Palestine and reiterated their call for an immediate ceasefire and return of the hostages. Noted that more Heads of State, Government, and councils around the world now echoed that call.

The mayor thanked those who had supported the Chevin Service on 21 January 2024 and noted that a charity event would be held at the Guildhall to support Parkinson's UK and a separate event may be held for the Red Hen charity. The Mayor's Quiz would be taking place on the 13 March and the Mayor's Reception on 15 March.

The mayor also advised that they would be exercising their discretion to move agenda item 6d – Hartree Proposed Early Stage Development and Possible Acceleration (Subject to Permission) – to the last item on the agenda as it contained confidential information. This item was then deferred to the Council meeting's reconvened date of 29 February 2024.

## **24/5/CNL Public questions time**

Public Questions

To watch the recording of public question time: [Budget Meeting, Council - Thursday, 15th February, 2024 6.00 pm \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

### **Question 1 - Cambridge Young Greens**

Following the barbaric Hamas-led attack that took the lives of over 350 children and young people in October of last year, we have seen an eruption of violence in the middle east. Recent events, including the International Court of Justice's ruling last week, have brought the Israeli government's continued attempts to commit genocide against the Palestinian people to the forefront of the national conversation. Residents of Cambridge, many of whom have family and friends who reside in either Palestine or Israel, have been shocked by the needless waste of nearly thirty-thousand lives - both Palestinian and Israeli - that has taken place over the last four months alone.

These events have been particularly distressing for young people in Cambridge. It is estimated that half of the occupants of the Gaza strip are

children, and a further 20% are under the age of 30. Tragically, over a third of the recent casualties have been children.

Last year, HC Bill 325 was put forward in an attempt to sabotage the peaceful and democratic efforts of Palestinian rights activists, who have sought change by calling for boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS) against the state of Israel. While the local authority has already been severely limited in its freedom to procure its goods and services as it pleases, what implications might this mandate have for Cambridge City Council?

The Leader responded:

- i. Like the Cambridge Young Greens was horrified by the events taking place in Palestine and Israel.
- ii. The Council issued a statement by the Mayor on the 19 October calling for all communities to respect one another.
- iii. Cambridge was a diverse city and a City of Sanctuary.
- iv. Commented that although relatively few incidences of hate crimes had been reported to the Police this may mask the true situation. Noted that students from different communities had expressed fears around what had been taking place and the impact this had on their daily life. The Council acknowledged this impact and noted that the Community Safety Team had been working with communities to try and allay those fears.
- v. Noted the HC Bill 325 was still going through Parliament.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. In the past the City Council had worked hard to acknowledge genocides which had taken place around the world and had supported affected residents.
- ii. Noted the Council held an event to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The same could not be said for events in the Middle East, which had been referred to merely as a conflict by council representatives. These comments upset many young people in Cambridge many of whom have friends or relatives residing in Palestine.
- iii. Considering the International Court of Justice's ruling believed the council should have a clear stance on recent events. Asked if the Council considered the Israeli Government's actions to be an attempt at genocide.
- iv. Historically the Council had put effort into promoting services which supported victims of military violence and noted a series of webpages had been set up to advise local people how they could assist Ukrainian people. Palestinians had not received the same treatment. Asked if the Council could set up webpages to advise local people how they could support humanitarian aid to reach people suffering in the Middle East.



The Leader responded:

- i. Asked to be provided with further details about who had made comments using the term conflict and would follow this up.
- ii. The Labour Group had issued a statement in December calling for an immediate ceasefire. This had been sent to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.
- iii. Would investigate the request for a website regarding how local people could support humanitarian aid.

## Question 2

With reference to motion 10a - If this motion is passed, how will Care Experienced people be involved in the implementation of the treatment of Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic and how will the Council involve Care Experienced people in their policy-making?

The Executive Councillor for Communities responded:

- i. Care experienced people faced many barriers; in particular not being seen or heard.
- ii. Having the State appointed as corporate parent lead to many hurdles for care experienced people to be overcome including direct and indirect discrimination and not having the support network other people had.
- iii. If the Care Experience as Protected Characteristic motion was passed (minute reference 24/15/CNL) all new policies would need to reflect and consider the impact of care experience as a protected characteristic.
- iv. Officers and staff would need training, HR would need to reflect this policies and equality impact assessments would need to consider care experience as a protected characteristic.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. In September 1998 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care wrote to all councillors about their role as corporate parents of looked after children and care leavers asking them to look at the lives of those in care and ask themselves if they thought it was good enough for their own children.
- ii. Spoke about their care experience; had been told by professionals their experience in the children's home constituted torture and that they had experienced physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.
- iii. As a Care Leaver had not received the support they needed.
- iv. Didn't feel like they had a friend until they were 19 years and did not feel they had a home until 22 years.

The Executive Councillor for Communities responded:

- i. Thanked the public speaker for sharing their care experience and believed it would help people to understand how care experienced people are affected by their experiences.

### **Question 3 – County Councillor Goodliffe**

Anyone who has experienced being in Care has experienced loss or trauma or more often both. Their adverse childhood experiences follow them into adulthood. They also often have less support than their peers in terms of supportive family, adults who can assist with the usual tasks we help our own adult children with – applications, forms, preparation for life in the form of job interviews, daily tasks and other needs. Just this week I have assisted my own adult children in their work, university projects, how to fix a household appliance and ordering things on the internet.

Similarly our duty as a corporate parent does not end when a Child reaches the magic 18 years. Whilst County may hold the Corporate parenting role for Children's Services, we always need to work with our City and districts to manage housing, planning and open spaces to name but a few areas. As such according to the McAllistair Review:

“First, the ‘corporate parenting’ responsibility that applies to local authorities needs to be extended to all public bodies for children in care and care experienced adults, to reflect the shared responsibility they have to these children and adults. Second, to tackle the stigma and discrimination many care leavers face in their day to day lives, the UK should be the first country in the world to recognise the care experience as a legally protected characteristic in equalities legislation.”

Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made.

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit, and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces, and the media.

At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own. Care Experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing,

health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system, and as corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who have been looked after by any authority.

Therefore, I am delighted to see this on the agenda for Cambridge City today. I am pleased on behalf of a group of people who need to be seen, heard and embraced by all local Authorities. Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives, and despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account.

Care experienced young people are often hidden and this we need to make sure they are seen. I look forward to working with Cambridge City Council to ensure that in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire we value Care Experienced people and work together to ensure that their best possible future is achieved.

The Executive Councillor for Communities responded:

- i. Thanked County Councillor Goodliffe for their hard work and thanked Cambridgeshire County Council for passing the motion.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. Noted a Housing Association had advertised a property stating 'no care leavers', which showed why making care experience a protected characteristic was so important.
- ii. If the City Council passed the motion, it would be the 80<sup>th</sup> council to do so.
- iii. Terry Galloway had been campaigning on this issue nationally and was present at the meeting.

The Executive Councillor for communities responded:

- i. Approval of the Care Experience as Protected Characteristic motion (minute reference 24/15/CNL) would raise the profile of care experience and ensure voices were heard.

#### **Question 4 - Secretary of Cambridge Stop the War Coalition**

Since 2014, I have personally organised public meetings, vigils and protests for our Cambridge community to demonstrate our solidarity in Cambridge for the struggle of the Palestinian people against Occupation. Even in the social distancing era of 2021 we gathered in our hundreds to protest the attacks on Gaza by Israeli Occupation forces. Now, since October 2023 to the present day, the people of Cambridge continue to come out in large numbers here and

to support the national protests in London. We have residents from Palestine living in our community and students from Gaza studying in our Universities. In acknowledgment of the depth and breadth of support from the Cambridge community for the struggling people of Gaza under Occupation, and in solidarity with our many Palestinian residents, would the city council consider a show of solidarity for the people of Palestine now by flying the flag of Palestine at Guildhalls?

Some information for context:

Our petition on change.org asking the City Council to Fly the Flag of Palestine at Guildhalls got 2763 signatories.

203 of these are Cambridge residents. I have attached the spreadsheet of the Cambridge signatories.

The petition can be viewed [Petition · Fly Palestine Flag at Guildhalls · Change.org](#)

We are living in an unprecedented era of militarisation after a bloody history of the last 100 years of war.

Some areas of the world do not know peace.

Since South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice it has become apparent that the world is witness to an ongoing genocide in Palestine.

We urge you all to demonstrate a simple, but powerful act of solidarity with those suffering and to show the world that the City of Sanctuary stands with the people of Palestine.

The Leader responded:

- i. The City Council had a reputation for demonstrating solidarity with people across the world who faced oppression.
- ii. Cambridge was a City of Sanctuary.
- iii. The Council represented all people in the city.
- iv. The Council would not fly the Palestinian flag despite recognition of the enormous loss of life in Gaza.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. The Council needed to meet with residents and the people of Gaza who lived in Cambridge. They needed to understand the depth of feeling by them and the wider Cambridge community.
- ii. The Council should take a lead from South Africa.

- iii. A show of solidarity was powerful. Cambridge should lead the world in this act. It was a simple thing to fly the Palestinian flag.

The Leader responded:

- i. An immediate ceasefire had been called for.
- ii. Weekly informal meetings were taking place with different communities.

Supplementary Public Statement:

- i. Had asked for a simple thing; for the Palestinian flag to be flown at the Guildhall to show solidarity and they had been told this wouldn't be done.
- ii. Also felt a microaggression had been made against them implying that the problems being talked about, the people of Gaza suffering was because of arguments between people of particular faith groups, which was incorrect. Reference had been made to Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories as if Palestine did not exist; it was an occupied territory by Israel.
- iii. Asked for South Africa and Nelson Mandela's lead to be followed.
- iv. Asked for support for Palestine.
- v. Asked for an apology for the statement that it was a faith issue.
- vi. Was calling on the whole Council to speak out, did not want statements from political groups. Terrible crimes were taking place. The Council had a moral duty to speak out.
- vii. Other actions the Council could take, to observe the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions. Call on Government to observe export rules on arms licences.

Councillor Bick responded:

- i. Noted the Leader had responded to public speakers and had advised the Labour Group's position. The Liberal Democrat Group had not been asked for their view about a ceasefire and would support a ceasefire.

Councillor Bennett responded:

- i. Noted the Cambridge Young Greens had spoken earlier during public speaking time at the meeting.
- ii. The Green Party had a united stance nationally and stood for a ceasefire.

## Question 5

The attacks by Hamas on October 7th 2023, and the scale of the subsequent continual Israeli bombing of Gaza have sent shock waves around the world. Already by November the UN Secretary General was saying that we are

witnessing a killing of civilians, especially children, that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since he took office.

Since that date, and as at the beginning of this week, the recorded deaths from Israeli military action were over 28,000 people, including more than 12,000 children, and among whom there are at least 340 medical workers and 120 journalists. Around 7,000 people are still missing, 70% of whom are women and children. 68,000 people have been wounded, in many cases with life-changing injuries. There has been devastation of the entire civic infrastructure. This after 17 years of siege on Gaza. Aid trucks still do not have adequate access. Widespread hunger and disease are the inevitable corollaries, everyone is at risk.

Collective punishment is a war crime, as is hostage-taking (as well as the initial Israeli hostages, thousands of Palestinians, including children, have been abducted and imprisoned). The principles of international law and conventions on human rights must be central to the responses of our political leaders to this crisis, no matter who perpetrates them.

South Africa, as a signatory to the 1948 Genocide Convention, brought a case to the International Court of Justice last month, which concluded that a 'Plausible Case' for Genocide could be made against Israel, also a signatory. Its role is to make legal rulings, not to enforce them, so it did not call for a ceasefire, but the Provisional Orders, if implemented, would have very much the same effect. There are immediate implications for public figures in the UK, as since 2001 there is personal liability in law for complicity in Genocide.

This situation did not start on October 7th, and it will not end solely with a ceasefire. The underlying causes must finally be acknowledged and tackled. Gaza is an occupied territory and part of Palestine, which has been subjected to expulsions, military occupation, apartheid, siege and severe human rights violations over a period of 75 years. Israel has enjoyed decades of impunity while regularly flouting international law and committing war crimes. People living under such regimes look to international institutions to stand up for justice, without which there cannot be peace. Failing that, as re-affirmed by UN Resolution 45/130 in 1990, they look to 'the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, apartheid and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle'.

There is crucial work to be done by you, our local political representatives, to put pressure on our national ones. Silence and neutrality are not options here, they make you complicit. Israel must not be allowed to flout international law

any longer: the implications for the rest of Palestine, and beyond, do not bear thinking about.

Gaza has everything to do with us in Cambridge. We are an international City of Sanctuary, welcoming students, visitors and refugees from all over the world. Public opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of a ceasefire in the UK and internationally, witness opinion polls and huge demonstrations in many cities. This is certainly what we experience in Cambridge, where people also express their care and concern with generous donations.

#### Question

Will the City Council call for:

An immediate permanent ceasefire

The unhindered entry of all necessary humanitarian aid into Gaza, including the immediate restoration of funding to UNWRA.

An immediate end to the attacks, arrests, land theft and demolitions in the West Bank

An end to the illegal control systems of military occupation, siege and apartheid

And demand that our government does likewise?

The Leader responded:

- i. The City Council acted as a representative for all people in the City. Sought to distinguish their different roles from that as a Council and that as Cambridge Labour Group.
- ii. The Cambridge Labour Group had called for an immediate ceasefire in December 2023 and had written to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in January 2024. Stood in solidarity with innocent civilians from both Israel and Palestine. Condemned the bombing and seizure of Gaza and the massacre of people who lived there.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. They were writing to the Council as a whole and they were asking the Council to act. Oxford, Sheffield, Bradford, Bolton, Exeter, Liverpool, Preston, Burnley Aberystwyth had all called for ceasefires as a council, which had a particular political strength nationally.
- ii. Did not believe all public questions asked had been answered.
- iii. Believed that the Council needed to do something concrete; expressions of sympathy and statements of concern were not sufficient. The City Council should follow what other councils had done.
- iv. Should heed the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions. Asked for an evaluation to be conducted of investment, financial banking, and tendering processes.



The Leader responded:

- i. Had called for a ceasefire and had written to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition to call for a ceasefire.

### **Question 6**

For those Councillors who do not know me, I am John Preston, longstanding Cambridge resident, artist, historic environment consultant and lecturer. I worked in the Guildhall for over 20 years as conservation officer then historic environment manager for the Council; I have organised events and exhibitions in it. I cycle to shop in the market. My question raises issues of public involvement in, and the physical capacity of, our city, firstly in relation to the Market Square and the Civic Quarter in agenda item 7a.

I welcome the inclusion of the Guildhall and the Corn Exchange along with the Market Square in the Civic Quarter combined project (bid SC 873 on page 330), but the Council's plan to appoint architects in April to take proposals to RIBA Stage 2 is seriously premature, perpetuates past mistakes in relation to the Market Square, and risks wasting scarce resources and losing any remaining public goodwill.

Cllr Simon Smith says on the Civic Quarter website: "By working with the community and stakeholders, we will find out what people want from the Guildhall, market and Corn Exchange and spaces between.....". But the Council should have found out what people want as part of the brief, before getting anywhere near the detailed design stage. Its 2019 Market Square Feasibility Study "recommended that visioning workshops with technical stakeholders and the community are arranged prior to design progression to develop and agree a vision and objectives for the scheme"(BDP Feasibility Study, 9.3, p 108). But this did not happen, then or since.

The so-called "vision" agreed by Councillors in 2022 for the market square was aspirational at best, as were the Council's responses to the very inadequate public consultation. The trials of demountable stalls (without which the Council's proposed evening events are a non-starter) were a total fiasco. The Council has still not published its cultural report on potential events, or any evidence on how these could be accommodated whilst maintaining a viable market within the limited space and time available. So neither of the 2 key elements of what is presented to you as an "agreed vision" were or are credible. It was, and remains, demonstrably clear that the project has failed to pass its first hurdle: RIBA Stage 1 "agree a brief and establish that it can be accommodated on the site".

So rather than rushing ahead to appoint an external design team, why doesn't the Council take up the offer of help made by the Chair of the Cambridge Association of Architects in a recent Civic Quarter meeting? Come on City Council, hold public briefing workshops facilitated by local architects, and let's explore the possibility of a realistic vision which resolves, to public satisfaction, the many competing demands on, and potential opportunities offered by our Market Square and civic buildings. Only then you will have a basis for appointing a design team with a viable brief.

And in terms of public goodwill, if you value the market as you claim to do, how about actively promoting it, as East Cambridgeshire does for Ely Market?

Supplementary Question (provided in advance of the meeting)

In my supplementary I will respond to the Executive Councillor's comments. I will also raise a further and very current public involvement and physical capacity issue: the urgent need for a publicly-accessible digital model to allow the individual and cumulative impacts of tall and bulky development proposals to be shown to and assessed by Councillors and public. The urgent need for such a model has been highlighted by the Grafton Centre and Beehive proposals; it could be extremely helpful for the Hartree project (agenda item 6d).

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources responded:

- i. The Council had reached a consensus to progress the proposals regarding the redevelopment of the Market, Guildhall and Corn Exchange to RIBA stage 2.
- ii. The views of stakeholders and the public would be heard. The engagement plan had been included in the procurement documentation.
- iii. Noted points made at a Civic Quarter Liaison Group meeting on 31 January would be published in the meetings minutes on the website.

Supplementary Public Question:

- i. Welcomed the commitment to the Guildhall, Market Square and Corn Exchange but challenged the process for delivering it.
- ii. A viable market needed to work for everyone. The council was still running separate meetings for the traders. The practical issues which concerned them were of equal concern to the wider public.
- iii. Noted comments that the council would learn from what it had done previously, but the council was repeating its previous mistake of leaping from aspiration to design, without resolving the practical requirements on

which the vision depends. The 'what, why and how' needed to be resolved before moving on to design.

- iv. The market square vision tried to cram too much into a limited space.

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources responded to the supplementary question provided in advance of the meeting:

- i. A 3D digital model of the city had been procured, which had allowed for coverage of the city and its setting. The model would complement the existing mapping system and would be further enhanced by a photo realistic layer of data to assist with the visualisation of new developments.

The 30-minute period for public questions was exceeded before question 7 could be responded to. The Executive Councillor for Communities would provide a written response to the member of the public outside of the meeting.

### **Question 7**

What progress has been made in providing a Traveller site/(s) in Cambridge, including transit sites?

A year after the last budget meeting, we are again raising the issue of the lack of Traveller sites in Cambridge. Over 3 ½ years after the rhetorical statement by the then Labour Councillor (subsequently the Executive Councillor for Equalities, Anti-Poverty and Wellbeing) on the impact of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in criminalising the travelling way of life, the Council have still failed to provide any meaningful solution or change to their policy of eviction. We have pointed out that as the only Labour Council in Cambridgeshire, surrounded almost totally by a sea of Tory councils, this was unacceptable. Within the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership alongside South Cambridgeshire, with a notorious record of anti-Traveller housing policies, particularly aimed at the Irish Traveller community, Cambridge Council have effectively followed their lead. Finding a pitch of ground for legal stopping places has been beyond the GCP. In their response last year, Cambridge Council stated they had changed their focus to looking for permanent sites, despite the fact that it is the lack of transit sites that causes the greatest conflict between the Traveller and settled communities. As we have consistently pointed out, English Romani and Irish Travellers have protected status under the ECHR which includes the right to a home. (1) We are not aware what the new GTANA has recommended, if in fact it has reported.

While the Council would likely decry the treatment of the Bedouin in Israel and Palestine, another travelling people, similar empathy towards the Travellers in

our County appears lacking, alongside the ambition to resolve this long-standing problem.

#### Notes

1 In fact Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 stated 14 years ago that public bodies should have regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; foster good relations; to remove and minimise disadvantages suffered by those due to their protected characteristics; and to encourage them to participate in public life. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/>

#### **24/6/CNL To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption**

**6a** Executive Councillor for Housing: HRA Budget Setting Report (BSR) 2024/25

**Resolved** (by 24 votes to 1) to:

- i. 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 2023/24, to sustain the proposed level of investment, which includes ear-marking funding for delivery of the 10 Year New Homes Programme.
- ii. Recognise that the constitution delegates Treasury Management to the Chief Finance Officer (Part 3, para 5.11), with Part 4F, C16 stating; ‘All executive decisions on borrowing, investment or financing shall be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer, who is required to act in accordance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities.
- iii. Recognise that the decision to borrow significantly to build new homes impacts the authority’s ability to set-aside resource to redeem the HRA Self-Financing debt at the point at which the loan portfolio matures, with the need to re-finance debt in the latter stages of the business plan.
- iv. Approve capital bids, as detailed in Appendix E (3) and Appendix F of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
- v. Approve the latest Decent Homes and Other HRA Stock Investment Programme, to include re-phasing of elements of the programme between capital and revenue, as detailed in Appendix F of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

- vi. Approve the latest budget sums, profiling and associated financing for all new build schemes, as detailed in Appendix F, and summarised in Appendix H, of the HRA Budget Setting Report.
- vii. Approve allocation of £15,285,000 of funds from the budget ear-marked for the delivery of new homes into a scheme specific budget for Newbury Farm, in line with the scheme specific report presented as part of the committee cycle.
- viii. Approve the revised Housing Capital Investment Plan as shown in Appendix H of the HRA Budget Setting Report.

**Resolved** (by 35 votes to 1) to:

- ix. Approve the inclusion of Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure and associated grant income from 2024/25 onwards, based upon 2023/24 net grant awarded, with approval of delegation to the Chief Finance Officer, 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. Approve delegation to the Chief Finance Officer, 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. Approve delegation to the Director of Communities 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 recommendations made by the Shared Home Improvement Agency Board.
- xii. Approve delegation to the relevant Director, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, as Section 151 Officer, to draw down resource from the ear-marked revenue reserve or capital reserve 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.
- xiii. Approve delegation to the Chief Finance Officer, 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 reported and incorporated as part of

the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy in September or November 2024.

At this point in the meeting, it was agreed (32 For, 2 Against, 2 Abstentions) that an adjournment would be taken after item 8(b), with all remaining items to be taken at a meeting on Thursday 29 February.

**6b** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Capital Strategy 2024/25

**Resolved** (by 33 votes to 0) to:

- i. Approve the Capital Strategy.

**6c** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25 to 2026/27

**Resolved** (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the estimated Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2024/25 to 2027/28 (inclusive) as set out in Appendix C of the officer's report.

**6d** Leader of the Council: Hartree - Proposed Early Stage Development and Possible Acceleration (Subject to Permissions)

This item was deferred to the adjourned council meeting taking place on 29 February 2024.

**24/7/CNL To consider Budget Recommendations of the Executive for adoption**

**7a** Budget Setting Report (General Fund) 2024/25 to 2028/29

A supplementary information document was published in advance of the council meeting on pages 19-24 of the Information Pack which updated recommendation 2(c) and the level of council tax for 2024/25 as set out in updated Appendix A(b) and recommendations 2 (g) and (k) as reserve movements were impacted by the final finance settlement.

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

The Liberal Democrat Group Members presented the Liberal Democrat Group's alternative budget as published in the Information Pack.

The Green Group spoke to their budget commentary as published in the Information Pack.

Under the Council's budget procedure, the Liberal Democrat Group's alternative budget was deemed to have been moved and seconded as an amendment.

The Liberal Democrat Group's alternative budget amendment was lost by:

10 votes in favour: Bick, Bennett, Blackburn-Horgan, Flaubert, Hauk, Hossain, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer, Young

To 24 votes against: Ashton, Baigent, Bird, Carling, Davey, Divkovic, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Griffin, Healy, Holloway, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Pounds, Robertson, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Swift, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Thittala Varkey, Wade

2 Abstentions: Howard, Tong

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

25 votes in favour: Ashton, Baigent, Bird, Carling, Davey, Divkovic, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Griffin, Healy, Holloway, Hossain, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Pounds, Robertson, Smart, A.Smith, S.Smith, Swift, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Thittala Varkey, Wade

11 abstentions: Bick, Bennett, Blackburn-Horgan, Flaubert, Hauk, Howard, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer, Tong, Young

To approve the following:

- i. Revenue pressures and bids shown in Appendix D(b) and savings shown in Appendix D(c) of the officer's report.
- ii. Delegation to the Chief Finance Officer 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).
- iii. The level of council tax for 2024/25 as set out in the updated Appendix A (b) detailed on pages 23-24 of the Information Pack.
- iv. Delegation to the Chief Finance Officer 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).
- v. Proposals outlined in Appendix E(a) for inclusion in the Capital Plan.
  - vi. Subject to (v) above, the revised capital plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix D(c) and the funding as set out in Section 5, page 20.
  - vii. The impact of revenue budget approvals and the resulting contribution to reserves [Updated General reserves table on page 22 of the Information Pack].
  - viii. The creation of a Civic Quarter Development Reserve with the remit set out in Section 6, page 24.
  - ix. The allocation of £20m of general reserves to that reserve.
  - x. The allocation of £750k of general reserves to the Climate Change Fund, as set out in Section 6, page 23.
  - xi. The resulting level of reserves [Updated General reserves table on page 22 of the Information Pack].
  - xii. The Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Report, covering the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves, included in Section 8 of the BSR [page 32].
  - xiii. Reconfirm that the incomes below will be disregarded (if above £10 statutory disregard) when calculating entitlement to housing benefit and/or council tax reduction. These schemes are often called local or modified schemes.
    - War disablement pension
    - War widow, widower or surviving civil partner pension
    - Armed Forces Independence PaymentThe estimated cost to the council for payments of housing benefit made under the local scheme is £1,777.50 and for council tax reduction less than £50.
  - xiv. Note the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix F covering all GF budget proposals.
  - xv. Note the schedule of proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 in Appendix G.

**24/8/CNL To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption**

**24/9/CNL Civic Affairs Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2024/25**

**Resolved** (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the change in delegation for fixed term non-leadership team Director level roles and to amend the Constitution in accordance with paragraph 6.3 of the officer's report.
- ii. Approve the draft Pay Policy Statement 2023/2024 attached to the officer's report as Appendix 1.

### **24/10/CNL Licensing Committee: Cumulative Impact Statement**

**Resolved** (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the draft Cumulative Impact Assessment attached to the officer's report as Appendix C.

### **24/11/CNL To deal with oral questions**

This item was deferred to the adjourned council meeting taking place on 29 February 2024.

### **24/12/CNL To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:**

#### **24/13/CNL Councillor Holloway - Care Experience as Protected Characteristic**

Councillor Holloway proposed and Councillor Bird seconded the following motion:

This Council notes that:

- care experienced people face significant barriers that impact on them throughout their lives. One in five care leavers feels lonely most or all of the time (Baker et al. 2019, p. 6), care leavers make up 25% of Britain's homeless population (Mackie and Thomas 2014, p. 27), and adults who have spent time in care are far more likely than their peers to die prematurely (Sacker et al. 2021, p. 33).
- despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account. Josh Macalister wrote in The Independent Review of Children's Social Care that "The disadvantage faced by the care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time" (Macalister 2022, p. 24).

- care experienced people often face direct and indirect discrimination, and need to be protected against both. This discrimination occurs in many areas of life, including housing, health, education, relationships, employment and criminal justice.
- care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas.
- councillors should be champions of care experienced people and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudices that exist in all aspects of society.
- the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.
- Current Care Leaver provisions end at age 25, whereas recognition of care experience as a protected characteristic would mean that care experience would be taken into account for a lifetime – in the same way as the discrimination and hardships resulting from care experience last a lifetime.
- Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have passed motions recognising care experience as if it were a protected characteristic, on 16 May 2023 and 29 November 2023 respectively.

This Council therefore resolves that:

- it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- it recognises that councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by this Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally have a protected characteristic.
- in its delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty, this Council will include care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who have a protected characteristic in services and employment.

- this Council will treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic.
- this Council formally calls upon all other bodies, including other local authorities in Cambridgeshire, to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as this recognition may be introduced by legislation.
- this Council will continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.

**Resolved** (unanimously) to support the motion.

#### **24/14/CNL Councillor Bennett - Equality Training 2024**

This item was deferred to the adjourned council meeting taking place on 29 February 2024.

#### **24/15/CNL Written questions**

This item was deferred to the adjourned council meeting taking place on 29 February 2024.

#### **24/16/CNL To note Urgency Action Taken by Officer**

**12a** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority- Appointment of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserve (substitute) member

This item was deferred to the adjourned council meeting taking place on 29 February 2024.

The meeting ended at 11.15pm.

**CHAIR**

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**COUNCIL**

29 February 2024

6.00 - 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Carling, Davey, Divkovic, Flaubert, Gawthrope Wood, Gilderdale, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Healy, Holloway, Hossain, Howard, Lee, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Nethsingha, Payne, Porrer, Pounds, Robertson, Sheil, Smart, A. Smith, S. Smith, Swift, Thittala Varkey, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

**24/19/CNL Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ashton, Levien and Martinelli.

Councillors Flaubert, Glasberg, Nethsingha and Sheil joined the meeting online.

**24/20/CNL Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item	Interest
Councillor Baigent	All	Personal: Member of Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

**24/21/CNL Minutes**

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/22/CNL Mayor's announcements**

“I would now like to make a statement on the Humanitarian appeal for the people of Gaza and has been agreed by all Group Leaders.

The situation in Gaza is deteriorating day by day. The death and destruction taking place is having a devastating impact on innocent civilians, particularly women and children. A ground offensive in Rafah, southern Gaza will only lead to further unnecessary loss of life.

I know many in Cambridge have been deeply and personally affected. The events since October have been truly awful and I extend my sympathies to all those who have been directly and indirectly affected and their families.

We can help people in Gaza by donating to one of the following organisations that provide medical aid and humanitarian relief:

- [United Nations Relief and Works Agency](#)
- [United Nations Population Fund](#)
- [Medecins Sans Frontiers](#)
- [The Red Cross](#)
- [Palestine Red Crescent](#)

As Mayor and on behalf of the city, I have made two statements about the situation in Gaza, ([17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023](#) and [21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2024](#)), and continue our calls for an immediate ceasefire, the return of hostages, unfettered access for humanitarian aid, peace in the Middle East, international support for a two-State solution and the upholding of international law.

Cambridge is proud to be a [City of Sanctuary](#) that upholds and respects the human rights and dignity of all peoples.

The council seeks to promote civility between all members of our city community, including those who feel an association with parties to conflict elsewhere in the world.

There is no place for hate in Cambridge. If you are aware of hate crimes, you can report them to the police on 999 or 101, to [Stop Hate UK](#) or to the City Council's [Racial Harassment Service on 01223 457967](#)."

## **24/23/CNL Public questions time**

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

## **24/24/CNL To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption**

**24/24/CNL**a Executive Councillor for Housing: HRA Budget Setting Report (BSR) 2024/25

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/24/CNLb** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Capital Strategy 2024/25

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/24/CNLc** Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25 to 2026/27

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/24/CNLd** Leader of the Council: Hartree - Proposed Early Stage Development and Possible Acceleration (Subject to Permissions)

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Mayor used her discretion to alter the order of the agenda items. The Hartree item was moved to the end of the meeting. However, for ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the published agenda.

Members resolved to exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillors Baigent and S. Smith left the Committee before this item was considered and did not return.

Councillors Porrer, Smart and Thornburrow withdrew from the meeting for this item and did not participate in the discussion or decision making.

The Committee received a report regarding funding for the Hartree development.

**Resolved by 25 votes to 3** to accept the Officer recommendations.

**24/25/CNL To consider Budget Recommendations of the Executive for adoption****24/25/CNLa** Budget Setting Report (General Fund) 2024/25 to 2028/29

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/26/CNL To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption****24/26/CNLa** Civic Affairs Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/26/CNLb** Licensing Committee: Cumulative Impact Statement

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.



**24/27/CNL To deal with oral questions**

1) Councillor Payne to the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control, and Infrastructure

Do you think a Development Corporation for Cambridge is a good idea?

The Leader responded:

- i. 'No' in principle, but it depended on circumstances in reality. Would look at the details of the proposal about the problems the Development Corporation was trying to fix if an application was made (one had not been). Queried if the Development Corporation would be fit for purpose.
- ii. Expected the Democratic Leaders of the City Council and South Cambs District Council to be involved in the Development Corporation. Not members appointed by Central Government. Residents needed a voice.

2) Councillor McPherson to the Executive Councillor for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety

Can the Exec Cllr for Community Wealth Building and Community Safety update the Council on the work of the Cambridge BID?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. Cambridge BID (Business Improvement District) had undertaken several initiatives and activities this year to support local businesses and enhance the city for residents and visitors.
- ii. Areas of work included:
  - a. Purple Flag and Night-time economy – the BID were a key partner in Purple Flag Group, which brings together the Cambridge BID, city council, police, local business, Cambridge Businesses Against Crime, voluntary services and higher education organisations to help keep Cambridge safe, particularly in relation to the night-time economy. This included providing funding for Taxi Marshalls to help people to get home safely, street pastors to help people in distress and a communication network run by the police and CAMBAC for venues to alert each other about suspicious behaviour when people were moving between venues. As a result Cambridge had retained Purple Flag status since 2019.
  - b. Street Cleaning: The BID continued to fund additional street cleaning and a rapid response service to help keep the city centre streets clean, deal with graffiti and fly tipping.

- c. Events: The Cambridge BID had organized a range of events and arts and cultural activities to bring vibrancy to the city. These include the organising and funding the Cambridge Christmas Lights and switch on events, support for the 'Out of the Ordinary' street arts festival last summer and the upcoming Standing Tall Sculpture Trail which followed the successful Cows About Cambridge in 2021 and will offer families a free and fun way to explore the city and help raise money for the BREAK charity which supported young care leavers. It also had a grant funding pot which supported locally organised events throughout the year.

### 3) Councillor Pounds to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Can the Executive Councillor explain how the Government's confirmed Local Government Finance Settlement impacts our Council and residents?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. The City Council needed certainty to deliver services.
- ii. It had received the annual settlement late so had to plan how to delivery services and balance the budget without financial certainty.
- iii. Changes to Central Government funding made it hard to deliver services. It was hard to delivery services due to Central Government austerity.

### 4) Councillor Griffin (on behalf of Councillor Ashton) to the Leader

Can you update Council regarding progress on Cambridge 2040?

The Leader responded:

- i. Michael Gove made an announcement in the Sunday Times July 2023 about supercharging Cambridge to make it the science capital of Europe by building new homes.
- ii. Funding was announced for a multi-agency group to address water scarcity and boost local planning capacity (£9m announced for this so far which could assist schemes that had stalled from 2018 Local Plan). Support was also offered from Homes England for North East Cambridge development.
- iii. Michael Gove met Council Leaders in December 2023 then made an announcement in the paper without first liaising with South Cambs and City Council Leaders.
- iv. City Officers were working with civil servants.
- v. There was a good working relationship between South Cambs and City Council Leaders plus Peter Freeman (Chair of Homes England).

- vi. Was not aware what would be included in the Budget Speech. Undertook to update Council in future.

#### 5) Councillor Divkovic to the Executive Councillor for Housing & Homelessness

In August 2023, the Council was reaccredited by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. What does the accreditation signify?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. The Council was first accredited by DAHA in 2019. The accreditation was recognised as a national benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse, given that they were in a unique position to identify it, prevent it and provide help for people suffering its effects.
- ii. To achieve its re-accreditation the Council had to meet new, more rigorous DAHA criteria to demonstrate the quality of service it provided to those seeking housing advice, and supporting tenants, residents and council staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
- iii. As part of the accreditation process DAHA assessors inspected the council's procedures and case files, and interviewed staff.
- iv. The assessors praised the Council's work, including:
  - a. The quality of risk assessments completed.
  - b. Demonstrating a proactive approach to identifying signs of domestic abuse in people approaching the council for housing support, plus other residents and council staff.
  - c. Providing a trauma informed, non-judgemental and believing response.
  - d. Partnering with other agencies to tailor the service provided according to survivors' individual needs.
- v. The reaccreditation demonstrated the Council's commitment to supporting residents who experience all forms of domestic abuse. The Council would continue to make improvements to services based on feedback from survivors.

#### 6) Councillor Nestor to the Executive Councillor for Communities

In 2023, the Cambridge Folk Festival was awarded Greener Festival Outstanding Certification. As work is going into promoting and arranging the 2024 festival, could the Executive Councillor for communities let us know what work is the Council doing to build on this certification?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. "Outstanding" means the Council had (at the festival):
  - a. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and its carbon footprint.
  - b. Minimised water use.
  - c. Excellent travel, transport and food waste policies.
- ii. To build on this in 2024 the Council aimed to:
  - a. Further reduce water consumption by using compost toilets.
  - b. Encourage re-use of equipment through a repair café to discourage broken/wonky items going to landfill.
  - c. Introduce a share initiative around camping equipment to reduce the amount of items brought onto site.
  - d. Encourage people to bring their own crockery and cutlery to reduce waste.
  - e. Encourage people to use less water.
  - f. 'Sew Positive' would be present to reduce waste and increase recycling.

#### 7) Councillor Lee to the Leader

In light of a recent Housing Scrutiny Committee where the Executive Councillor not only failed to answer a member of the public's supplementary question, but instead answered someone else's question, how can the Leader of the Council ensure that when the public asks the Council questions, the public are listened to, respected and have their questions answered in a coherent way?

The Leader responded:

- i. All Executive Councillors were dedicated and committed to their portfolio.
- ii. The error was unintentional and the Executive Councillor apologised.
- iii. The Executive Councillor listened to, and advocated for, her residents.
- iv. If the questioner wished to resubmit the same question in writing, a response would be given again in writing or informally as the questioner wished.

#### 8) Councillor Todd-Jones to the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure

How is the Design Code trial progressing in the North of the city, and how might it help improve the planning process in the long run?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. The Design Code trial was progressing well. There were three phases to the project.
- ii. A consultation had been undertaken.

- iii. There had been a design review of the Code jointly between Cambridge City Council, Greater Cambridge Design Review Panel and the Cambridgeshire Quality Panel.
- iv. It took six months to prepare the Code.
- v. The Planning Service would learn from this experience for other master planning activity.

9) Councillor Varkey to the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services

Could the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces and City Services explain whether (and if so, how) the County Council's recent decision to reinstate herbicide spraying will affect our ambition not to use herbicides in our regular operations?

The Executive Councillor responded:

- i. On 23 January the County Council Highways Committee reviewed their earlier decision and reinstated herbicide spraying.
- ii. The City Council was running a trial not to use weedkillers.
- iii. The City Council hoped to work with the County Council to encourage the elimination of herbicide use.
- iv. The County Council said they would not use chemicals/herbicides in areas which had alternative plans. The County Council recognised the City Council was one such area as it had a Herbicide Reduction Plan ie alternatives to herbicides.

A full list of oral questions including those not asked during the meeting can be found in the Information Pack, which is published on the meeting webpage [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 29th February, 2024, 6.00 pm - Cambridge Council](#).

**24/28/CNL To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:**

**24/29/CNL Councillor Holloway - Care Experience as Protected Characteristic**

Item covered in 15 February 2024 minutes.

**24/30/CNL Councillor Bennett - Equality Training 2024**

Councillor Bennett proposed and Councillor Tong seconded the following motion:

Cambridge City Council provides training on certain protected characteristics. This helps councillors to provide the best support we can to residents and make the best policy choices.

However, we don't provide this training on all protected characteristics.

The purpose of this motion is to correct that omission and also extend cover to care leavers who do not yet enjoy statutory protection under the Equality Act 2010

This council reaffirms its commitment to supporting all its residents to the best of its ability.

In particular, it notes the importance of ensuring appropriate training for councillors so that they can provide the best support to all residents.

It notes that to date training has been provided on aspects of some but not all protected characteristics or on care leaver status.

In particular, no training has been provided for councillors to help them support those residents who have the protected characteristics of age and disability. Yet both of these characteristics have a significant impact on how residents use the services we provide as a council.

This council commits to introducing appropriate disability training for councillors in 2024.

Appropriate disability training should as a minimum cover:

- The social model of disability.
- Hidden disabilities.
- The stigma attached to disability.
- The disability services provided by the council and its partner agencies.
- An understanding of how attitudes to disability can prevent residents seeking appropriate help.

The council also commits to reviewing the training on protected characteristics that it provides with group leaders to provide the most appropriate programme for councillors so that as comprehensive training as possible can be provided within the time and budgetary constraints applicable.

**Resolved (unanimously of all physically present in the Chamber [34 Councillors])** to support the motion.

**24/31/CNL Written questions**

Members were asked to note the written questions and answers that had been placed in the information pack circulated around the Chamber.

**24/32/CNL To Note Urgency Action Taken by Officer**

**24/32/CNLa** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority- Appointment of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserve (substitute) member

Members were asked to note the decision.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

**CHAIR**

## CIVIC AFFAIRS

**Present:** Councillors McPherson (Chair), Davey (Vice-Chair), Bennett, Robertson, Sheil and Young

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

### **Committee Appointments**

The report detailed the issues to consider following the local elections on 2 May 2024 and make recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23 May 2024. The Democratic Services Manager advised that an updated paper which was circulated at the meeting confirmed the size of committees and known appointments, further information would be provided at the Annual Meeting. A vote would need to be taken at the Annual Council meeting with regards to the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee as two nominations had been received.

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

- i. Appointments to city council committees and joint partner bodies below:

**Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Pounds, Nestor, Swift, Divkovic, TBC

Payne, Hauk

Glasberg

Alternates – Griffin, Sheil, Martinelli, Flaubert, Tong

**Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Nestor, Baigent, Swift, Griffin, Divkovic

Porrer, Bick

Clough

Alternates – Pounds, Todd-Jones, Lee, Lokhmotova, Bennett



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**Housing Scrutiny Committee 9** (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Griffin, Robertson, Gawthrope Wood, Baigent, Swift, Thittala

Martinelli, Lee

Tong

Alternates: Nestor, Pounds, Young, Porrer, Bennett

**Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Robertson, Gawthrope Wood, Sheil, Baigent, Todd-Jones

Bick, Young

Bennett

Alternates – Lab TBC, Lab TBC, Porrer, Martinelli, Clough

**Civic Affairs Committee 6** (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem +1 Green)

McPherson, Gawthrope Wood, Sheil, Robertson

Young

Bennett

Alternate – Holloway, Bick, Clough

**Employment (Senior Officer) Committee 6** (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Davey, Carling, Gilderdale, Moore

Bick

Bennett

Alternates: Labour TBC, Porrer, Clough

**Licensing Committee 10** (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

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McPherson, Bird, Moore, Griffin, Pounds, Wade

Blackburn-Horgan, Young, Lib Dem TBC

Clough

Alternates – Davey, Lib Dem TBC, Bennett

**Planning Committee 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)**

Smart, Baigent, Thornburrow, Gilderdale, Carling, Dryden

Porrer, Lokhmotova

Bennett

Alternates – Nestor, Todd-Jones, Flaubert, Young, Howard

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - 1 seat**

A.Smith

Alternate - Davey

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Labour**

Lab TBC, Lab TBC

Alternate – Lab TBC

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee 1**  
Labour + one alternate

S.Smith

Alternate – Lab TBC

**Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)**

S.Smith, Thornburrow, Bick

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**Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes 6 (4 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem)**

S.Smith, Baigent, Smart, Thornburrow

Porrer, Flaubert,

Alternates – Gilderdale, Nestor, Young, Lokhmotova

**Cambridge Joint Area Committee 6 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)**

Thornburrow, Robertson, Baigent, Moore

Young

Bennett

Alternates – Carling, Lab TBC, Martinelli, Tong

ii. Nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs 2024/25

**Environment and Communities Services**

Chair - Pounds

Vice-Chair – Nestor

**Planning and Transport**

Chair – Nestor

Vice-Chair – Baigent

**Housing**

Chair – Griffin

Vice-Chair (nb. Tenant/Leaseholder is Chair of Part 1 of the meeting) - Robertson

**Strategy and Resources**

Chair – Robertson

Vice-Chair – Gawthrope Wood

**Civic Affairs**

Chair - McPherson

Vice-Chair – Gawthrope Wood

**Licensing**

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Chair - McPherson

Vice-Chair - Bird

**Planning**

Chair - Smart

Vice-Chair (Labour) – Baigent

Vice-Chair (Lib Dem) - Porrer

**JDCC**

Chair – S.Smith

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Item

# COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL



**To:**

Civic Affairs Committee 13/05/2024

**Report by:**

Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager

Tel: 01223 - 457011 Email: Dan.Kalley@cambridge.gov.uk

**Wards affected:**

All

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report details the issues to consider following the local elections on 2 May 2024 and makes recommendations to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 23 May 2024.
- 1.2 This report is being published on 2 May, the day of the city council elections. There will be updated information published on 13 May, before the committee meeting when the implications of the results of the elections are known.

## 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 13 May).
- (ii) The nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs in paragraph 3.4 (as updated on 13 May).
- (iii) Any Constitutional updates if required.
- (iv) To consider any nominations for Honorary Councillors.

### **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 2023, 42 councillors made up of 25 Labour, 11 Lib Dem and 4 Green, 1 Conservative, 1 Independent translated proportionally against a seat availability on ordinary committees of 57 seats at 37, 13 and 7 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 alternate members in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee. Two alternate members can be appointed 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 2 May.

<b>Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem+1 Green)
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<b>Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers – 8 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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<b>Housing Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 9 (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem +1 Green)
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<b>Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee</b>
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Current Numbers – 8 (5 Labour+ 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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<b>Civic Affairs Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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<b>Licensing Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 10 (7 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)
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<b>Planning Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 8 (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem +1 Green)
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<b>Employment (Senior Officer) Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
--

<b>Employment Appeals Sub-Committee</b>
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Current Numbers - 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem)
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<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority</b>
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Current Numbers - 1 (Leader of the Council) + 1 substitute (Deputy Leader)
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<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (proportionality set by the Combined Authority may change after elections)</b>
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Current Numbers - 2 Labour + 1 Labour alternate
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<b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee (proportionality set by the Combined Authority may change after elections)</b>
--

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

<b>Joint Development Control Committee</b>
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Current Numbers- 6 (4 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + alternates)
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## **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 13 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 be Chair for 2024/25)

## **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.

## **Honorary Councillors**

3.6 The Council may appoint Honorary Councillors. The scheme is appended. Group Leaders have been provided with a list of former Councillors who meet the criteria.

#### **4. Implications**

**(a) Financial Implications** None

**(b) Staffing Implications** None

**(c) Equality and Poverty Implications** None

**(d) Environmental Implications** None

**(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 Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager, tel: 01223 - 457011, email:

[Dan.Kalley@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Dan.Kalley@cambridge.gov.uk).

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CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE-13 MAY 2024

Committee Appointments and Constitutional Changes – Update Report

As referred to in para 2 of agenda item 7, information received today updates what was published on 7 May.

Recommendation 2(i)

**Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Pounds, Nestor, Swift, Divkovic, TBC

Payne, Hauk

Glasberg

Alternates – Griffin, Sheil, Martinelli, Flaubert, Tong

**Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Nestor, Baigent, Swift, Griffin, Divkovic

Porrer, Bick

Clough

Alternates – Pounds, Todd-Jones, Lee, Lokhmotova, Bennett

**Housing Scrutiny Committee 9** (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Griffin, Robertson, Gawthrope Wood, Baigent, Swift, Thittala

Martinelli, Lee

Tong

Alternates: Nestor, Pounds, Young, Porrer, Bennett

**Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee 8** (5 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Robertson, Gawthrope Wood, Sheil, Baigent, Todd-Jones

Bick, Young

Bennett

Alternates – Lab TBC, Lab TBC, Porrer, Martinelli, Clough

**Civic Affairs Committee 6** (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem +1 Green)

McPherson, Gawthrop Wood, Sheil, Robertson

Young

Bennett

Alternate – Holloway, Bick, Clough

**Employment (Senior Officer) Committee 6** (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Davey, Carling, Gilderdale, Moore

Bick

Bennett

Alternates: Labour TBC, Porrer, Clough

**Licensing Committee 10** (6 Labour + 3 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

McPherson, Bird, Moore, Griffin, Pounds, Wade

Blackburn-Horgan, Young, Lib Dem TBC

Clough

Alternates – Davey, Lib Dem TBC, Bennett

**Planning Committee 9** (6 Labour + 2 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Smart, Baigent, Thornburrow, Gilderdale, Carling, Dryden

Porrer, Lokhmotova

Bennett

Alternates – Nestor, Todd-Jones, Flaubert, Young, Howard

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - 1 seat**

A.Smith

Alternate - Davey

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Labour**

Lab TBC, Lab TBC

Alternate – Lab TBC

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee** 1 Labour  
+ one alternate

S.Smith

Alternate – Lab TBC

**Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly** 3 (2 Labour + 1 Lib Dem)

S.Smith, Thornburrow, Bick

**Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes** 6 (4 Labour+ 2 Lib  
Dem)

S.Smith, Baigent, Smart, Thornburrow

Porrer, Flaubert,

Alternates – Gilderdale, Nestor, Young, Lokhmotova

**Cambridge Joint Area Committee** 6 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem + 1 Green)

Thornburrow, Robertson, Baigent, Moore

Young

Bennett

Alternates – Carling, Lab TBC, Martinelli, Tong

Recommendation 2 (ii)

Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs 2024/25

**Environment and Communities Services**

Chair - Pounds

Vice-Chair – Nestor

**Planning and Transport**

Chair – Nestor

Vice-Chair – Baigent

**Housing**

Chair – Griffin

Vice-Chair (nb. Tenant/Leaseholder is Chair of Part 1 of the meeting) - Robertson

**Strategy and Resources**

Chair – Robertson

Vice-Chair – Gawthrope Wood

**Civic Affairs**

Chair - McPherson

Vice-Chair – Gawthrope Wood

**Licensing**

Chair - McPherson

Vice-Chair - Bird

**Planning**

Chair - Smart

Vice-Chair (Labour) – Baigent

Vice-Chair (Lib Dem) - Porrer

**JDCC**

Chair – S.Smith

## CIVIC AFFAIRS

**Present:** Councillors McPherson (Chair), Davey (Vice-Chair), Bennett, Robertson, Sheil and Young

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL

### **Governance Review Proposals**

The Committee received a report from the Democratic Services Manager. The report set out recommendations with regards to the next stage of the Governance Review Proposals.

**Resolved** (4 votes for, 2 votes against, 0 abstentions) to recommend to Council:

- a. That the Council design and implement a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model of decision making and authorises the Chief Executive to enable changes to be implemented from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2025
- b. To establish a member-officer design group with external technical support to develop a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model with final proposals including an updated constitution being presented to the Civic Affairs Committee and then to full Council for adoption.



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Item

## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

**To:**

Civic Affairs Committee

**Report by:**

Dan Kalley, Democratic Services Manager

Email: dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk

**Wards affected:**

All

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 With cross-party agreement, the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) conducted a review of the Councils 'governance, behaviours, and culture' in 2022. This concluded that the City Council should modernise and simplify its governance arrangements and make its decision making more transparent.
- 1.2 A Governance Reference Group (GRG) was subsequently established with cross party support and participation. Its Terms of Reference and Workprogramme were endorsed by all members of the Civic Affairs Committee on 20 September 2023.
- 1.3 This report provides the Civic Affairs Committee with recommendations that emerged from that process. Specifically, that the Council should fully implement the Leader and Cabinet style of governance, rather than continuing with a a unique hybrid approach – a blend of the committee and cabinet systems - that it has operated since 2002.
- 1.4 Unlike most authorities, decisions are not made collectively by a Cabinet, and those decisions are not held to account by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee that can set its own agenda and operate with greater independence from the Executive. Decisions are currently made by individual Executive Councillors, often following discussion at committee which in turn generally follows more private discussion within political groups. To implement the recommended changes effectively will take time, careful planning, and engagement from members and officers.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Civic Affairs Committee recommend to Full Council:
1. That the Council design and implement a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model of decision making and authorises the Chief Executive to enable changes to be implemented from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2025.
  2. To establish a member-officer design group with external technical support to develop a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model with final proposals including an updated constitution being presented to the Civic Affairs Committee and then to full Council for adoption.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Governance Reference Group (GRG) was established to consider the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) findings and develop proposals for the Civic Affairs Committee that could be put to full Council (see Annex A for role and membership of GRG).
- 3.2 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny found that the Council's current arrangements lead to a lack of collective democratic accountability, is resource heavy, opaque, did not result in improved outcomes for the Council and was not as inclusive as it could be for residents to engage with.
- 3.2 The GRG has developed four design principles to inform any new governance arrangements for the Council.
- **Decision making is timely / prompt, focussed and efficient** – our processes, culture and behaviour focus time, effort and resource on the issues with the biggest impact (for the Council and/or for residents), and on statutory decision-making.
  - **Decision making is accountable** and subject to appropriate, proportionate and effective scrutiny and challenge,
  - **Our governance system and decision-making processes are transparent**, easy to understand and engage with (for councillors, officers and members of the public), evidence-based, lawful and democratic.
  - Our decision making and governance systems and culture allows different points of view to be explored and considered and **encourages collaboration** and consensus.
- 3.3 The GRG explored how well the committee system and Leader/Cabinet models met these principles. The Leader/Cabinet model provides the best fit. The GRG also commissioned officers to provide some hypothetical options for the Leader and

Executive/Cabinet model based on current best practice; and that these options should consider members' desire for new arrangement to:

- provide for strong scrutiny, and
- enable non-executive members to have a role in the decision-making process.

## **Good Governance**

- 3.4 The core purpose of any model of decision making for the City Council to enable 'good governance'. This is integral to effective performance and delivery. Good governance is essential to enable the Council to meet its duty to secure 'best value', continuous improvement, and achieve the best possible outcomes for residents of Cambridge.
- 3.5 While local government has been under considerable financial strain for more than a decade it has tended to be failures of governance, culture, and behaviours that have led to poor outcomes, financial mismanagement, and government intervention.
- 3.6 Structures do not create good governance, people do. The CfGS review went to great lengths to emphasise the importance of behaviours and culture. They also noted that a change in structure can be an impetus to create the conditions for better ways for working between members and member-officer relationships; but that structures alone do not drive the behaviours and culture necessary for good governance.
- 3.7 The City Council's written constitution already incorporates the Leader and Executive/Cabinet form of governance. The constitution already provides for collective Executive decision making at public meetings (e.g. Cabinet), and an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, in practice the Council operates what has been termed a 'hybrid-hybrid' system because it blends elements of the two distinct forms of governance available to local authorities - the Committee and Leader-Cabinet systems. There are around 30 out of over 300 local authorities in England that have forms of hybrid governance and the approach taken by Cambridge City Council appears to be unique.
- 3.8 Fully implementing the Leader and Executive/Cabinet form of governance would complement and enhance changes that have been introduced to the City Council's officer structure, ways of working and plans for future transformation.
- 3.9 The kind of arrangements that Councils in similar cities (e.g. Oxford, Exeter and Norwich) operate are more appropriate to the nature, scale and pace of decision-making required in a fast-growing, diverse and ambitious city like Cambridge. Such arrangements are best suited to delivering timely, transparent and accountable decision-making to support efficient and effective services and projects that deliver the Council's vision and statutory duties.

## **4. Implications**

- 4.1 Legal Implications – the Council constitution is currently set-up to operate a Leader and Cabinet model, the premise is to refresh the model and the constitution to align this with best practices and creating a more transparent form of decision-making.
- 4.2 Financial Implications – A budget of £150,000 has been allocated to support the work of the design and implementation phase of the project. This includes funds to project manage the process and provide external technical support to ensure the constitution is fit for purpose and aligns with member priorities. This budget will also cover member/officer training and a review of the member allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
- 4.3 Any changes to the scheme of member allowances, including to the Special Responsibility Allowances, or changes to officer structures or processes, could have a financial impact. This will emerge during the design process. Officers recommend members seek to contain the costs of democracy within the existing budgetary envelope.

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

- 5.1 The GRG members have fed in their views to the process so far, reflecting the views of other members of their political groups; and have taken advice from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services Manager and Assistant Chief Executive.

## **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 None

## **7. Background papers**

- 7.1 [Civic Affairs report September 2023](#)

## **8. Contact**

[dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk), Democratic Services Manager