

Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 2 March 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

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

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

This meeting is the continuation of the adjourned meeting of Thursday 23 February 2023. The meeting will start from agenda item 6.

Agenda

Public Speakers

- 6 Leader of the Council - Senior Management Review (Pages 359 - 406)
- 7 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 7a Civic Affairs Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 (Pages 407 - 430)
- 7b Recommendations of Employment Senior Officer Committee 1 March 2023 (to follow)
- 8 To deal with oral questions
- 9 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 9a Councillor Ashton - Appointment to the post of Honorary Recorder of Cambridge
- The Council resolves to appoint His Honour Judge Mark Bishop to the post of Honorary Recorder of Cambridge for as long as they hold the position of Resident Judge at Cambridge Crown Court.
- 9b Councillor Gilderdale & Councillor Pounds - Protecting Workers' Right to Strike

The council acknowledges:

- The vital work that trade unions play in workplaces in Cambridge and beyond;
- That the right to strike is a fundamental human right;
- That without unions, we would not enjoy many of the workplace rights we have today.

The council notes:

- That unionised workplaces are more likely to have better terms and conditions, higher wages, improved maternity, paternity and carer leave policies, better job stability for staff, as well as stronger health and safety arrangements.
- That the UK has the most restrictive anti-union laws and some of the tightest regulations on strikes in Europe.
- That the Government intends to introduce the Minimum Service Levels Bill covering six service sectors, which the TUC has described as an ‘attack’ on the right to strike.
- That the intention of this legislation would require Unions and employers to agree minimum levels of service during times of strike action, and in the event of no agreement Government Ministers could impose these limits, with Unions then liable to be sued and workers potentially dismissed if they don’t comply.
- This legislation has raised many concerns with some legal experts noting that there are likely to be legal challenges raised.

The council believes:

- That industrial disputes are best resolved through negotiation not measures designed to undermine and potentially outlaw industrial action.

The council resolves to:

- Stand in solidarity with striking workers who are fighting for better pay and conditions.
- Continue to work alongside the local Trades Council on relevant work such as the TUC’s ‘Stay Safe, Join a Union’ Campaign and ‘Heart Unions Week’.
- Write a letter from the leader of the council to the Prime Minister and Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch, outlining this council’s concerns and opposition to the Minimum Service Levels Bill.

9c Councillor Howard & Councillor Bennett - Cost of Living Emergency and Making Connections

This Council resolves to write to the CEO of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (“GCP”) and advise her that Cambridge City Council has declared a Cost of Living Emergency in Cambridge.

The Council requests that the GCP considers the Cost of Living Emergency when reviewing the Making Connections consultation and preparing proposals for review by the County Council at a later date.

The Council requests that the GCP gives particular consideration to the economic impact on city residents, city businesses and city commuters.

The council requests that the GCP gives particular consideration to the primary impact on small business and the secondary impact on residents' cost of living.

The council requests that the GCP considers reliefs and exemptions for small businesses and other organisations in the city including but not limited to a corresponding discount or exemption for businesses and any other organisations in receipt of small business rates relief or any other business rates reduction in force at the start of the financial year in which any congestion charge is made.

The council notes that the current Making Connections consultation draft includes unspecified reliefs and exemptions for individuals on low incomes and requests that the GCP reviews these to ensure that exemptions and discounts are sufficient to avoid financial hardship. The council notes that a number of proposals for such exemptions have already been submitted to GCP during the public consultation and accordingly does not wish to put forward new proposals at this stage.

The council requests that the GCP publishes a formal socio-economic impact on the city of Cambridge of the effect of any "Making Connections" proposal before it is put before the County Council and that the workings and modelling behind that socio-economic impact be published and independently audited.

Notes:

- 1 The GCP "Making Connections" consultation which currently includes a congestion charge proposal closed on 23 December 2022
- 2 It is the intention of the GCP to place a proposal based on the responses to that consultation before the County Council in June 2023.

- 3 The GCP do not require the approval of the city council or any other district council for their proposals.
- 4 On Thursday 21 July 2022, the city council unanimously voted to declare a Cost of Living Emergency.
- 5 Among other provisions, this committed the council to:
 - a. **Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most,**
 - b. *through introducing a socio-economic duty and separately considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments.*
- 6 There can be no doubt that the cost of living emergency continues and that Cambridge is not immune.
- 7 Cost of living pressure on residents is expected to continue for three years (at the date of this motion) and still be of concern to residents on the proposed congestion charge introduction date.
- 8 The full impact on cost of living from the national government Conservative mini budget maxi shambles last Autumn and subsequent interest rate rises has yet to be felt. This is because of the high proportion of mortgage loans financed by fixed term fixed rate mortgages. Until the fixed term runs out, the mortgage payments stay the same.
- 9 Shop and hospitality business closures are running at the highest rate for 5 years.
- 10 Cllrs Howard and Bennett propose to publish an updated note on 2 March 2023 if any of the economic indicators published before that date show any material change.

9d Councillor Nethsingha - Türkiye and Syria

This Council notes with horror the shocking scale of devastation and loss of life following the earthquake in southern Türkiye and northern Syria.

This Council expresses its profound support for and solidarity with all those suffering as a result of the earthquake, both those facing trauma

and loss in the region, and those here in the UK who grieve for family and friends and the damage to communities. We commit to work closely with the Turkish and Syrian communities here in Cambridge to understand how we can best support the relief and recovery effort.

This Council also calls upon the UK government, parliamentary representatives, and spokespeople to explore whether a scheme similar to the homes for Ukraine scheme could be set up to allow those who have been made homeless and who have family or friends in the UK to travel here and remain in safety while recovery in the region takes place.

9e Councillor Payne & Councillor Bick - Murketts Garage Site

The Council welcomes the recent city council-funded acquisition of the former Murketts Garage site on Histon Road through the Cambridge Investment Partnership, the joint venture between the City Council and private developer Hill. It notes the intention to develop it for a mixture of market and social housing, similar to the Ironworks and Timberworks developments.

At the outset of this new scheme, Council calls for a clear commitment that, unlike Ironworks and Timberworks, overseas property investors will not be targeted for sales, which inflates the local housing market for all, and that marketing will focus on purchasers planning to live or work in Cambridge whether they be from the UK or elsewhere.

9f Councillor A Smith- Mandatory Voter ID

This council notes that:

- The Government intends to implement mandatory photo voter ID at the local elections in May 2023.
- Over 2 million voters are estimated to need the government-issued voter ID cards¹.
- Only 10,000 people have applied so far for these, representing just 0.5% of those who might need the new cards².
- Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights have said that the impact of the proposals may fall disproportionately on those with protected characteristics³.

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/157247/voter-id-law-must-be-shown-to-be-necessary-and-proportionate/>

²² <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jan/31/only-10000-people-in-uk-have-applied-for-government-issued-voter-id>

- The Electoral Reform Society has called the project ‘an expensive distraction’ which may disproportionately disadvantage already disadvantaged groups. They say that the Government’s own figures suggest that this project will cost £180,000,000 a decade.⁴
- The electoral commission have been given a budget of £5,650,000 to spend on advertising, resources and research for this project⁵.
- The Local Government Association has expressed serious concerns about the implementation of this project for May 2023 and is calling for a delay⁶.
- The Chief executive of the Association of Electoral Administrators has raised concerns about the safety of staff in polling stations.⁷

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This Council believes that:

- Any democratic deficit could be better addressed by reaching out to the estimated 9 million people who are currently not on the electoral roll at all, or by seeking to raise electoral turnout, rather than putting up barriers to voting.
- The Government should abandon this costly project which will undermine, not enhance, democracy.
- At the very least, the Government should delay implementation, to avoid the risk of significant disenfranchisement.

This council resolves to:

- call upon the Government to:
 - delay the requirement for photo ID in the May 2023 elections
 - give serious consideration to scrapping the project entirely and focussing on other actions more likely to improve democratic engagement
 - undertake to cover fully the additional costs arising for councils due to the implementation of the Elections Act 2022
- Ask the leader to write to our Cambridge MPs informing them of this motion and asking them to share our concerns with Central Government and ask the Leader to write to Michael Gove asking him to act.

³ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/157247/voter-id-law-must-be-shown-to-be-necessary-and-proportionate/>

⁴ <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/campaigns/voter-id/>

⁵ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/angela-rayner-britain-sarah-olney-labour-government-b2258668.html>

⁶ <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-statement-parliamentary-vote-plans-introduce-voter-id>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/dec/10/council-leaders-urge-ministers-to-delay-plans-for-photo-id-at-may-elections>

- Publicise this motion and do all it can locally to urge voters to make sure they have the necessary voter ID.

10 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.

11 Officer Urgent Decisions

11a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority- Appointment of the Council's Board member and substitute member (Pages 431 - 432)

11b Approval of Additional Energy Investment 2023/24 (Pages 433 - 434)

11c Approval of funding to Cambridge Investment Partnership for a land purchase (former Murketts Garage Site, Histon Road Cambridge) (Pages 435 - 450)

The officer report contains exempt information during which the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by Council following consideration of a public interest test. This exclusion would be made under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11d £500M Local Authority Housing Fund Refugee Scheme – Approval to Deliver Longer Term Humanitarian Scheme Accommodation Through the 22-32 New Build Housing Programme, Partly Funded by Central Government (Pages 451 - 466)

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- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
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