

Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

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

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

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ on Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 22 November 2023

Yours faithfully

Jane Wilson

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 Minutes (Pages 7 - 34)
- 2 To Note the Returning Officer's Report that the following has been elected to the Office of Councillor Queen Edith's ward
- 3 Mayor's announcements
- 4 Public questions time
- 5 To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption
- 5a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Medium Term (Pages 35 -

Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Housing) 132)

5b Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2023/24 (Pages 133 -
(Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources) 156)

5c General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 157 -
(MTFS) 2023/24 to 2032/33 222)

6 To deal with oral questions

7 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:

7a Councillor Anna Smith - Debate not Hate

This council notes the intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council further notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does.

The council further agrees to sign up to the Local Government Association's (LGA) Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, the council resolves to:

- Write to our local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation

to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety

- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.
- Express our support for the Jo Cox Foundation¹'s Civility in Public Life Campaign, which we commit to adhering to in all of our political discourse².

Notes:

- Except for the last bullet point, this motion follows the wording, with only very minor edits for local context, of the Local Government Association's *Debate not Hate* motion which has been passed at councils across the country. More details of the LGA debate not hate campaign can be found here:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/debate-not-hate>.
- The Jo Cox Foundation is a registered charity set up in memory of murdered MP, Jo Cox, who studied at Cambridge University. It works to promote stronger communities, respectful politics, and a fairer world. (<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/about/>)
- The 2023 Civility Pledge, which is the core of the Civility in Public Life campaign is as follows:
 - Set a respectful tone when campaigning
 - Lead by example to foster constructive democratic debate
 - Demonstrate compassion by defending and promoting the dignity of others, especially my opponents.
- More details about the Jo Cox Foundation's campaign to promote civility in public life can be found here:
<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/our-work/respectful-politics/>

8 Written questions

No discussion will take place on this item. Members will be asked to note the written questions and answers document as circulated

¹ A charity set up in memory of murdered MP, Jo Cox, who studied at Cambridge University. It works to promote stronger communities, respectful politics, and a fairer world. <https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/about/>

² <https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/our-work/respectful-politics/civility-pledge/>

around the Chamber.

Information for the public

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

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

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

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 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.