

Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024

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, 18 July 2024 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 10 July 2024

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Minutes | (Pages 15 - 50) |
| 2 | Mayor's announcements | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Public questions time | |
| 5 | To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption | |
| 5a | Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Report 2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Housing) | (Pages 51 - 76) |
| 5b | Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report | (Pages 77 - 96) |

2023/24 (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

- 5c 2023/24 General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources) (Pages 97 - 130)
- 6 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 6a Employment (Senior Officer) Committee - Potential Termination Costs of Chief Executive's Office & Corporate Group Design (Pages 131 - 138)
- The confidential report to the Employment (Senior Officer) Committee 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 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 6b Civic Affairs Committee - Update on alternative options to Area Committees (Pages 139 - 192)
- 7 To deal with oral questions
- 8 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 8a Councillor Tong - Hope for private renters

Background to motion

It is now nearly 5 years since the last government made a commitment to reform the private rental market and protect people from “no fault” evictions.

These evictions were introduced by s21 Housing Act 1988. They have created a climate of fear for private renters, which can inhibit them from asking for much needed repairs.

After much delay a Renters (Reform) Bill 2024 was drafted which would have reduced the scope of “no fault” evictions, but was halted by the announcement of the July 4 2024 General Election.

Since the announcement of the proposed reform, rates of s21 “no fault” evictions have risen sharply, with 900 s21 “no fault” evictions per week recorded in the UK. The true figure is likely to be higher because not all these evictions are recorded.

Active Motion

This Council notes:

According to the 2021 Census, 31% of Cambridge households were in private rental accommodation. The welfare of these residents is of great importance to our city.

When residents are made homeless, there can also be an obligation placed on the council (“homelessness duty”) A rise in private tenants made homeless is likely to increase the strain on council resources.

Re-introduction of the Renters (Reform) Bill to Parliament (preferably with the 81 amendments tabled by the then opposition parties) would protect private renters from unfair treatment and improve their quality of life.

Any delay in re-introducing this bill or a similar one leaves tenants exposed to s21 eviction.

It is accordingly important that this bill (or a similar bill) is made law at the earliest possible date.

The Council therefore resolves to write to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner, copying in our local MPs asking her to bring forward a new renters reform bill at the earliest possible date.

(At the time of drafting this motion, the Council is unaware of whether such a proposal will be included in the King’s Speech on 17 July 2024 and shall adjust the letter accordingly.)

The Council also proposes to require its private rentals team to consider whether support for private tenants can be increased in the short term before any increase in legal protection and bring a report to the appropriate council committee on its proposals in Autumn 2024.

The Council wishes particularly to require officers to report on whether it would be practical to introduce a local version of the measures introduced by the Mayor of London, including online resources Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker, Property Licence Checker and Report a Rogue Landlord tool.

Useful Links (not part of active motion)

We have included some background papers that we found useful.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/reforming-private-renting-london>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10004/>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/improving-private-rented-sector/advice-renters>

We have also drawn upon the 2021 Census figures and the council's own Housing Facts.

8b Councillor Payne - Sewage Pollution in our water

Council notes the public outrage displayed in the general election about the pollution of rivers, waterways and beaches by sewage - an outrage which is shared locally in relation to the River Cam.

With the last government having been unwilling to take convincing measures to address this, council calls on the new government now to treat this as a priority for action, including introduction of criminal liability of water companies and suspension of executive bonuses for failure to meet performance targets.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs seeking the inclusion of legislation to appear in the very first King's Speech, and to both of Cambridge's MPs asking them to support this.

8c Councillor Lee - Our Voting System

The Council notes that the recent general election produced a new government with 100% of the power after winning two-thirds of the Parliamentary seats with only a third of the popular vote, when turnout was the lowest since 2001.

It considers that 'First Past The Post' is neither fair, inclusive, representative or popular and that it encourages voter disengagement, with surveys frequently showing that switching to a form of proportional representation is widely popular.

It calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to express our dissatisfaction with the current electoral system, and our

belief that a better system is both possible and desirable, and to ask him to set up a Citizens' Assembly to explore a system of voting fit for the Twenty-First century, encompassing national, local and mayoral elections.

It also calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the city's two members of Parliament calling for their support for this request.

8d Councillor Glasberg - Declaration of a Water Emergency

This Council notes with concern the rapidly accelerating water crisis that we are facing. Cambridge experienced severe drought in 2022 and 2023, while recently we have seen some of the wettest six months on record in the UK, which have caused flooding in many parts of the city and surrounding areas, damaged agriculture, roads and other public infrastructure, and affected the lives of numerous residents.

We now have by turns either too much or too little water, as well as distressingly high levels of pollution. When residents see local flooding, they may think that our water shortage is over. Unfortunately, drought and flooding go hand in hand as dry hard soil fails to absorb water. Valuable rain fails to reach our chalk streams and instead contributes to flooding.

In 2019, the City Council declared biodiversity and climate emergencies. This helped to raise public awareness of these critical issues and influenced planning and other decisions.

We need a water emergency declaration for the same reasons.

This council recognises that other agencies are charged with water management. However, we acknowledge the impact of our own actions and decisions on our local water issues. We acknowledge that without broad engagement and co-operation that the chances of any improvement in our water situation is very limited.

This may be the longest motion that Greens have ever submitted to this council. We make no apologies for this. The scale of the crisis and the extent of the water supply gap is such that we consider that no prudent or responsible person can justify leaving any stone unturned to improve the situation

This council:

- Asserts that our water issues go wider than the supply and sewage problems that are the responsibility of the local water companies
- Resolves to take steps to ensure the public are aware of the full extent of our water supply gap by monitoring and republishing the information prepared by Water Resources East, the Environment Agency and others as appropriate and providing full and clear information on the extent of the water gap.
- Pledges to encourage all organisational departments, partners and our communities, businesses and residents to address the water crisis within Cambridge and the wider region, and
- To take a full and active part in that work ourselves and employ our “soft power” fully

(1) Declare recognition of the water emergency and the local impact this could have on the residents, communities and businesses we serve;

(2) Help reduce over-abstraction by:

- Giving full weight in planning applications for large-scale developments to the evidence of the Environment Agency as statutory consultee on water issues
- Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request the withdrawal or amendment of the 8 May 2024 WMS (“Written Ministerial Statement”) on the Cambridge Delivery Group to be replaced with a new WMS requiring greater priority to be given to water issues in considering any local planning applications
- Writing to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner to request that planning matters in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire remain under the control of the local authorities
- Requiring the highest water efficiency standards for any new developments that are approved, including mandatory greywater collection and recycling;
- Undertaking a public information/education programme within the next year to encourage residents to use less water, using all communications mechanisms
- Continuing to engage with the water companies, alongside expert community groups, to accelerate solutions to over-abstraction, supporting those that are strategically planned, clearly costed and transparent, and compatible with commitments to reach net zero and halt biodiversity loss;

- Putting pressure on the water companies to take more concerted, urgent and innovative action to:
 - cap abstraction from the Chalk aquifer at today's actual levels;
 - manage demand more effectively through actions such as the prompt declaration of hosepipe bans, the accelerated introduction of universal metering and proactive encouragement of water collection and recycling e.g. water butt installation;
 - rapidly increase efforts to repair leaks.

(3) Reduce pollution by

- supporting the public's pressure on Anglian Water to invest urgently in updating its smaller, older sewage treatment works and to halt illegal dumping of sewage into rivers. All wastewater installations and infrastructure that discharges into chalk streams and rivers should be upgraded to this end.

(4) Mitigate flooding by:

- pushing for the prioritisation of nature-based solutions, including restoration of flood plain habitats and appropriate vegetation management to slow down surface run-off, reduce the risk of flash flooding and minimise pollution;
- promoting the concept of, and principles behind the 'sponge' city and region approach: i.e. the creation of places with multiple areas of greenery, trees, ponds, soakaways, pocket parks, rain gardens and permeable paving to allow water to drain away, and with measures to store rainwater and runoff (e.g. water butts).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The erratic weather patterns, generated by climate change, are well understood on paper by both the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group and the water companies. Cambridge Water, the water supply company for the city and parts of South Cambridgeshire, notes in its 2025-2030 business plan¹ that "*we are likely to see more extremes of weather, with 60% less rainfall in the summer and 30% more rainfall in the winter in our Cambridge region by the 2080s.*" In its draft Water Resource Management Plan, the company acknowledges clearly that, with current growth proposals and the need for licence caps on abstraction to protect the natural environment, the region will run into a water deficit by 2029/30.

¹ <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

Current plans for addressing this are wholly inadequate, and incompatible with the February 2024 government ‘guidance’ on water scarcity². Plans for large-scale development will increase the burden, causing over-abstraction and pollution with negative impacts on the quality of life for residents and further threats to our chalk streams, trees and natural vegetation as the water table falls and becomes more polluted. Information provided by the City Council on the water crisis is minimal: hidden within its webpage on recycling³

References:

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<https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/111577/7/Scientific%20Report%20UK%20Storms.pdf>

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/biodiversity-emergency>

¹ <https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=21684>

¹ <https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/business-plan-2025-2030>

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

8e Councillor Davey - Cambridge: Our Vision

Council notes:

- Cambridge is a vitally important city both to the region and to the country’s regeneration. There has always been government interest and investment in the Cambridge area, from Harold Wilson to Gordon Brown and more recently former Secretary of State Michael Gove’s 2050 proposals.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

³ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/reduce-your-waste>

- The City Council has and will continue to play an essential role in the running of the city, providing important democratic governance and local decision making.
- With renewed interest in the city, including from the new Labour government, it is important that the Council establishes its own vision for Cambridge's future, one which is led by residents, workers and businesses here.
- The Council's current vision was written and adopted in 2014/15, following Labour taking over control of the Council. Since then, the city has seen significant change, as it has continued to grow rapidly, and become more diverse.
- Cambridge and the council have lived through Brexit, Covid, cost of living crises and the impacts of conflict around the world.
- This vision has been informed by conversations with residents about what matters most to them now and in the future; by councillors in their roles as community champions; and by our staff and partners. This includes the 'Rich Picture', 'State of the City' and the 'Cambridge Conversations' led by Executive Councillors.
- The vision is high-level and accessible. Many council strategies, delivery plans and targets fall out of the vision and will be further developed and refined, ideally with partners and communities, to help shape a new corporate plan from 2025-2030.

Council believes:

- This vision reflects the values, aspirations and needs of our local communities based on these conversations and ongoing collaborations.
- This vision will help the council in conversations about the future of Cambridge. It will enable us to represent the views of our citizens and to assert the city's future needs in discussions we have with our partners and our recently elected Labour government.

Council resolves:

- To adopt the Vision statement which positions the Council as a place maker, convenor and community facilitator as well as

playing a core role in providing public services.

- To promote our vision and ambition for the future of Cambridge, building on our vision for One Cambridge, Fair for All, to underpin and direct the work of the council and our partnerships including the emerging Local Plan and Cambridge 2050.

Cambridge: Our Vision

One Cambridge, Fair for All

Where:

- **Residents enjoy a high quality of life and exemplar public services.** Cambridge is a place of high employment where everyone has a warm, safe, and affordable home, and beautiful open spaces to enjoy. Communities are thriving and empowered, supported by well-run public services, and drawing on shared prosperity with greater equality in health and educational outcomes.
- **Decarbonisation and sustainability are central to prosperity.** Cambridge is a net zero carbon city, where people and nature enjoy a clean river, clean air, and biodiverse green spaces. Strong nature networks are coordinated between relevant bodies to combat the impacts of social and climate injustice.
- **Innovation benefits people and planet.** Cambridge champions pioneering discoveries which shape a better future for people and planet. There is a lifelong citywide commitment to learning which enables every resident to develop their skills and fulfil their potential. Businesses are key to the success of a thriving local economy which benefits residents and workers.
- **Development is sustainable and inclusive.** High-quality social housing, sustainable public transport alongside key infrastructure is prioritised to ensure Cambridge is a vibrant and caring city. Cambridge's beautiful architecture and public realm, with well-used community spaces, promote pride and wellbeing and is accessible to all.
- **Arts, sports, and culture are thriving.** Cambridge celebrates the city's diversity through a vibrant arts and cultural scene, including music, festivals, sports, and food and drink. Accessible

arts, sports and culture provide spaces for people of all ages to come together to enjoy the city, both during the day and at night.

- **Democratic accountability is genuine and accessible.**

Residents actively participate in democratic life and transparent decisions are made by and for the people of Cambridge. There is genuine partnership between academic, business, and civic communities to enhance residents' prosperity. Local control, devolution, and community empowerment are championed through transparent and simplified local government.

8f Councillor A.Smith - TUC Volunteer Charter: Strengthening Relations Between Paid Staff and Volunteers

This Council Notes:

1. The key role volunteering plays both locally and nationally.⁴
2. Our gratitude to the many thousands of volunteers that do so much to enhance our city and, particularly, to support the most vulnerable. Our equal gratitude to our staff, who work so tirelessly for our council and our city.
3. The impact that the economic downturn and the cost-of-living crisis have had on our paid and voluntary sectors⁵.
4. The importance of sound core principles in enhancing relations between paid staff and volunteers.
5. That volunteering helps build social capital and community cohesion and plays an important role in the delivery of key public services. But that volunteers should not be a substitute for paid staff.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Affirm and adopt the TUC Volunteer charter principles as set out below.
2. Use these principles as a guide to review our more detailed policies

⁴ According to Support Cambridgeshire's 2023 State of the Sector Survey, approximately 2,100 charities operate in Cambridgeshire. These charities employ an estimated 5,300 people, with over 30,000 volunteers and nearly 11,000 trustees recorded with the Charity Commission. This does not include the many more people who give of their time through mutual aid.

⁵ Support Cambridge's 2023 State of the Sector Survey highlighted issues in the local voluntary sector. Increasingly, the voluntary sector is struggling to both recruit volunteers, trustees and staff. Lack of funding was the biggest issue raised.

and procedures, which reflect our local needs and circumstances. To do this in discussion with local union representatives and volunteering managers.

3. Encourage partner organisations to do the same, to make sure paid staff are protected and volunteers supported.

TUC Volunteer Charter⁶

Preamble

This Charter sets out the key principles on which volunteering is organised and how good relations between paid staff and volunteers are built. It has been developed jointly by Volunteering England (VE) and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and has been endorsed by the wider volunteering and trade union movements.

Its starting point is that volunteering plays an essential role in the economic and social fabric of the UK. It is estimated that some 22 million people volunteer each year, contributing around £23 billion to the economy. Volunteering helps build social capital and community cohesion and plays an important role in the delivery of key public services. Volunteering is also good for the volunteer: it helps improve health and wellbeing and provides opportunities for individuals to acquire skills and knowledge that can enhance career development or employment prospects.

This Charter demonstrates the value and importance that both organisations place on voluntary activity and the time, skills and commitment given by volunteers.

This Charter recognises that voluntary action and trade unionism share common values. Both are founded on the principles of mutuality and reciprocity, leading to positive changes in the workplace and community. The trade union movement itself is built on the involvement and engagement of volunteers.

Volunteering England and the TUC acknowledge that on the whole, relations between paid staff and volunteers are harmonious and mutually rewarding. They can, however, be enhanced by good procedures, clarity of respective roles, mutual trust and support. This Charter sets out the key principles to help underpin good relations in the workplace.

⁶ Source, <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/charter-strengthening-relations-between-paid-staff-and-volunteers> (2009)

These principles should be used as a guide by individual organisations to develop more detailed policies and procedures, which reflect local needs and circumstances. This should be done, wherever possible, between local union representatives, employers and volunteering managers.

Paid work is any activity that is undertaken at the direction of an employer and is financially compensable.

Volunteering is freely undertaken and not for financial gain; it involves the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community.

Charter Principles

1. All volunteering is undertaken by choice, and all individuals should have their right to volunteer, or indeed not to volunteer;
2. While volunteers should not normally receive or expect financial rewards for their activities, they should receive reasonable out of pocket expenses;
3. The involvement of volunteers should complement and supplement the work of paid staff, and should not be used to displace paid staff or undercut their pay and conditions of service;
4. The added value of volunteers should be highlighted as part of commissioning or grantmaking process but their involvement should not be used to reduce contract costs;
5. Effective structures should be put in place to support and develop volunteers and the activities they undertake, and these should be fully considered and costed when services are planned and developed;
6. Volunteers and paid staff should be provided with opportunities to contribute to the development of volunteering policies and procedures;
7. Volunteers, like paid staff, should be able to carry out their duties in safe, secure and healthy environments that are free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, violence and discrimination;
8. All paid workers and volunteers should have access to appropriate training and development;

9. There should be recognised machinery for the resolution of any problems between organisations and volunteers or between paid staff and volunteers;
10. In the interests of harmonious relations between volunteers and paid staff, volunteers should not be used to undertake the work of paid staff during industrial disputes.

This Charter stands between Volunteering England and the TUC as a statement of principles and good practice. It is also a model for use by individual unions, volunteer involving organisations in the public, third and private sectors and other bodies in discussions around the use of volunteers.

9 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.

10 To Note Record of Urgent Officer Decision

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| 10a | Appointment of Councillor representatives to the Conservators of the River Cam. | (Pages 193 - 194) |
| 11 | Notification of Appointment of S.151 Officer | (Pages 195 - 196) |

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.