

Cambridge City Council Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 22 May 2025

Time: 11.00 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, 22 May 2025 at 11.00 am and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 14 May 2025

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 To elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26
- 2 To elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26
- 3 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 February 2025 and 17 March 2025
- 4 To note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been elected to the Office of Councillor
East Chesterton – Bob Illingworth

(Pages 13 - 54)

West Chesterton – Jamie Dalzell

- 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 Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2025/26
- 9 To elect a Leader of the Council
The Council is required to appoint a Leader of the Council. Article 7.3 of the current 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 Notification of Cabinet Portfolio Holders
Leader to notify Council of Cabinet Portfolio Holders.
- 11 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 11a Civic Affairs Committee - Cambridge City Council Constitution (Pages 55 - 380)
- 11b Civic Affairs Committee - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 381 - 440)
- 11c Civic Affairs Committee - Table of Appointments (Pages 441 - 452)
- 12 Appointments to Outside Bodies & Working Groups (Pages 453 - 460)
- 13 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.
- 14 Public questions time
- 15 To deal with oral questions
- 16 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of

which has been given by:

16a Councillor Tong - Proposed cuts to disability benefits and Access to Work Funding

Background

The current Labour government has proposed cuts to disability benefits (especially Personal Independence Payments) and changes to the Access to Work funding that could leave Cambridgeshire residents destitute.

Further more it is proposed that these cuts will be put to a vote without waiting for a full report on the impact of the proposed cuts.

The purpose of this motion is not to draw attention to the cruelty of the proposed cuts. That is so blindingly obvious that no motion is required.

The purpose of this motion is to contend that the proposed cuts don't save money. All they do is transfer the costs to hard pressed local services, the NHS and local economies.

These cuts are not just cruelty but stupid cruelty.

Active Motion

This council notes that the disability cut proposals are not just a threat to disabled residents and their families, although these are quite bad enough. There are also likely to be wider adverse impacts on our city. These include:

- Local health services -one in 7 hospital beds are already occupied by patients who no longer have a medical need but are trapped in hospital because care is not available
- The immediate local economy – disabled residents spend most of their income in local shops and on local services
- Increased rent arrears among council tenants
- Increased pressure on social services --the county council has the same statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 but residents' ability to contribute to care costs is reduced
- Increased pressure on county council finances -adult social care has to be prioritised by law so funds available for other services are reduced
- Increased use of food banks and food hubs -75% of food bank visits are from households with one or more disabled members

The council proposes to write to the ministers concerned, Liz Kendall and Rachel Reeves and ask local MPs, Daniel Zeichner and Pippa Heylings to co-sign the letter

The council's letter will ask for the proposed cuts to be abandoned or at the very least paused until a full impact assessment can be undertaken.

The council's letter will also ask whether the proposed cuts will really result in savings or merely transfer the costs from central government budgets to those of the NHS, local councils and struggling local economies.

Background Notes

Access to Work ("AtW")

- 1 The Access to Work scheme is intended to help people with disabilities or long term health conditions get work and stay in work. Full details of the scheme are here: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>
- 2 Critics of the Access to Work scheme have drawn attention to the long wait for scheme payments and unexpected refusal of funding The target time to process new schemes is 4 weeks but the average wait is now 12 weeks, up from 8 weeks at the 2024 General Election.
- 3 It is now proposed that the type of equipment that can be funded, the duration of awards, the use of support workers and the pay rate for support workers will be reduced.
- 4 It has been claimed that some of these changes have already been put into practice even through the disability consultation is still open.
- 5 It seems clear that the cuts to Access to Work will make it harder for people to get and keep jobs or achieve self employment.

Personal Independence Payments ("PIP")

- 1 PIP is designed to help with extra living costs if you have both:
 - a. A long term health condition or disability; and
 - b. Difficulty doing essential every day tasks or getting around because of that condition
- 2 PIP is not means tested and 1 in 6 PIP claimants are in paid work.
- 3 20 % of UK residents has a disability or long term health condition but only 8% claim PIP
- 4 PIP is a working age benefit although 15% of claimants are over working age . This is because if PIP is awarded before retirement, entitlement continues afterwards. The increase in pension age has meant that more people are able to claim.
- 5 PIP is considered to be a hard to get benefit. The success rate is 52 % and the fraud rate is 0.02 per cent.
- 6 PIP replaced a previous benefit called Disability Living Allowance ("DLA"). The transition is still ongoing and some

Cambridge residents are still on DLA not PIP.

- 7 Residents who lose out on PIP also lose access to blue badges, free bus passes, discounted rail travel and carer's allowance and make it harder to access other disability services and concessions.
- 8 Cambridge has one of the lowest rates of PIP claims in the UK at 4%, compared to 7% for East of England and 8% for the UK. This may reflect a healthier, more youthful population or simply that many residents are still on DLA.
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-personal-independence-payment-2>
- 9 However, even in Cambridge, there are 4,300 residents receiving PIP expected to lose a total of £7.5 million in PIP from the proposed changes. This is based on 87% of people on standard PIP and 13 % of people on enhanced PIP losing PIP which is in turn based on Fol figures produced by DWP.
<https://www.healthequitynorth.co.uk/app/uploads/PIP-REPORT-1.pdf>
- 10 The National Audit Office July 2024 report estimates that £870 million in PIP goes unclaimed every year.

16b Councillor Martinelli - Housing Associations in Cambridge

Council

NOTES

that:

In addition to our own provision of over 7000 council homes in Cambridge, there are estimated to be over 30 housing associations operating in the social housing sector in the city, providing a further 6000 homes for our residents, though not directly the responsibility of this council;

Potentially because of the emergence of a stronger financial driver in the sector, together with considerable consolidation among housing associations in recent years, ward members of this council are increasingly approached to support their tenants to resolve issues connected with many aspects of housing management in a way they would already expect in relation to city council housing. This is especially important where it involves vulnerable people who lack a voice and because many housing association organisations are not now based in Cambridge and seem remote to tenants.

Council **BELIEVES** it would be beneficial to those of our residents who are tenants of housing associations if they were able to approach their ward councillors in the expectation that councillors would be

recognised as agents of problem solving by housing associations in support of existing organisation-specific procedures. It may also be beneficial to housing associations to assist the avoidance of problems, and the unnecessary elevation of issues to the Ombudsman.

Building on the city council's existing relationship with housing associations through Homelink, and its statutory environmental health responsibilities, council **CALLS ON** the Executive Councillor for Housing to:

- Explore the feasibility of convening a written voluntary code for the recognition of ward city councillors in support of the resolution of matters that arise from time to time for their tenants
- Support this by maintenance of up-to-date records of local properties, appropriate contact details for all Housing Associations operating in the city and details of customer service access and internal resolution procedures.
- Brief all councillors on those situations for which City Council staff have either an established role in enforcement in relation to housing association tenancies and a housing advisory role with their tenants.

16c Councillor Simon Smith - Retrofit Dividends Cheaper Heating, Lower Emissions, Healthier Lives

This Council notes;

Residential homes are responsible for almost 20% of the UK's carbon emissions mainly through heating, hot water, and electricity. Public sector buildings account for 17% of Cambridge's emissions, which is a much higher proportion than the UK average of 3% from this emissions source.

In 2022, just over half (52%) of properties in England had Band C ratings – above the average for energy efficiency. National Energy Action estimates that 6.1 million UK households are currently in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy.

LGA research in 2020 estimated that the average cost to councils in pursuing competitive grant-funding was in the region of £30,000 per application.

Retrofitting is a form of home improvement that brings homes up to a better standard of thermal efficiency. It can include installing insulation, improving ventilation, water conservation, replacing gas and electric boilers with heat pumps, and adding solar panels and battery storage.

Cambridge City Council's retrofit programme is delivering multiple dividends for people and the planet and economy:

- Responding to the cost-of-living crisis through lower energy bills
- Mitigating climate change through lower fossil fuel emissions
- Adapting to climate change by keeping homes cooler during our more frequent and extreme heatwaves
- Improving quality of life through consistent and comfortable indoor temperature throughout the year,
- Improving public health with better ventilation and indoor air quality protecting residents from damp, condensation and mould associated asthma and bronchial illnesses.
- Creating conditions for new businesses to grow and build the skilled workforces needed to scale-up retrofit. Across the City and elsewhere.

The Council's retrofit programme comprise the following work streams:

1. Building capacities and skills to get the job done:

- Partnership for Government energy efficiency and retrofit funding: The Council has invested in professionals who have in turn built and led the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) which as a grant application and delivery vehicle has attracted over £25m in energy efficiency and retrofit programmes. The latest 2023-2025 £8.6m programme retrofitting 494 low energy efficient homes owned by low-income households across the County.
- Partnership for Government water retrofit programme: The shared planning service is leading a £5m a programme to reduce water consumption in Council homes across the City and South Cambs
- On the supply side, CERP procurement for a pipeline of energy efficiency and retrofit works has enabled contractor to invest in their business and critically apprenticeships and skills across the full range of trades.
- On the demand side, the Council has published a 'how to' retrofit guide for different housing archetypes for the construction industry and 'afford to pay' households which the CPCA is extending and promoting across Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough. The 3C Building Control service has launched a building regulations advisory service for applicants retrofitting houses and listed buildings

2. Getting the job done, retrofitting most energy inefficient Council homes

- Council home retrofit comprising external wall insulation, improved ventilation in wet rooms, door undercuts and when required, replacement windows, rear doors and top-up loft insulation to 300mm. To date 225 homes refitted since December 2023, with funding in place for 370 more retrofits over the next two years with support the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (£2.26m) and the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund Wave 3 and a further 130 in 2027/28.
- Net zero carbon pilot: Comprehensive retrofit of 50 Council homes on Ross Street and Coldham's Grove to net zero carbon standards, with monitoring results and practical lessons learned and monitoring to inform future retrofit works

More than half of all heat loss from these homes is through uninsulated solid brick walls and about sixth is lost through the floor and roof. The retrofit measures involve:

- adding insulation to the external walls, floor and roofs to reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
- replacing gas boilers with air-source heat pumps, which typically produce about three times as much energy as they use.
- installing new mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) systems. These will replace stale, moist air with fresh, filtered air and reduce heat loss. It also reduces humidity and the risk of condensation and mould.
- installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to the roofs, to provide electricity for the homes. This will contribute to the running of the heat pumps and MVHR systems. It will also enable qualifying tenants to claim [Smart Export Guarantee payments](#).
- upgrading to triple-glazed windows and composite external doors to reduce heat loss, draughts and condensation. It will also provide better insulation against external noise.
 - Investing in the Grade II listed Guildhall so that it will be net zero carbon in operation

3. Retrofitting private sector homes

- We are delivering government funded projects to support those

on the lowest incomes with retrofitting their homes to reduce their bills and ensure they are in warm and efficient homes, funded through the Warm Homes grant

- The contractors framework agreement is also accessible to residents, helping homeowners who are in a position to pay for measures to navigate the market for suppliers and find contractors to do retrofit work.
- The Council also developed a retrofit guide to provide homeowners and landlords in Cambridge with practical information on how to retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient. The guide sets out a whole house approach to retrofitting, based on the most common archetypes of housing in the city.

4. Retrofitting non-home building stock

- This council has set itself an ambitious target to achieve net-zero energy use by 2030 for council properties where we control the energy supply. This includes properties we occupy or manage, like community centres, as well as common areas in housing or commercial buildings we own and operate.
- In 2023, we completed a £1.7mn project (funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) to retrofit Parkside and Abbey Pools, installing air source heat pumps and energy efficiency upgrades.
- We have recently won Salix funding for decarbonization measures for the crematorium, Brown's Field Community Centre and Trumpington Pavillion - including systems controls, insulation, lighting replacement and solar panel installation.
- We are developing proposals for a **district heat network** with the University of Cambridge, city centre Colleges and Anglia Ruskin University. The aim is to create a renewable heat network in the city by 2030 to supply renewable heat and hot water around the city centre to help decarbonize buildings. This project is currently in the detailed design and business case development phase.

The **Civic Quarter redevelopment**, will upgrade the Guildhall and Corn Exchange. We are aiming for exemplar project outcomes, targeting, water neutrality and a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20% across the Civic Quarter and Operational Net Zero for the Guildhall. The design work to date includes consideration of fabric upgrades and alignment with ENERPHIT and LETI standards, introduction of water saving measures, PV panels and enabling a future connection to the

proposed city centre District Heating Network

This Council will ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Milliband, and the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, to ask them to replace the current retrofit and energy efficiency funding programmes that are intermittent, short term and uncertain due to wasteful competitive bidding and hard to meet ring fenced eligibility criteria with consistent long-term funding to give confidence to local government to plan for large scale retrofit programmes and their contractors and firms in the supply chain to invest in apprenticeships and skills training.

17 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.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route and proceed directly to the assembly point in front St Mary's Church. The duty Officer will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the duty Officer is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair.

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.