Cambridge City Council

Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 26 November 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

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 [access the building via Peashill entrance] on Thursday, 26 November 2026 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 18 November 2026

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

1	Apologies	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2026	(Pages 11 - 66)
4	Mayor's announcements	
5	Petition - Include the Tourist Information Centre in the Guildhall Plans **We the undersigned petition the council Recognise the importance of the Tourist Information Centre and include them in the designs for the refurbished Guildhall**	

We believe the Tourist Information Centre is an essential service which should be supported by the City Council and the Cambridge BID, and it belongs in the Guildhall in the heart of Cambridge.

6 Public questions time

7 To deal with oral questions

8 To consider the recommendations of the Executive for adoption

8a Local Plan submission (Pages 67 - 132)

Links to the appendices can be found within the report.

8b Civic Quarter (Pages 133 - 428)

Links to non-exempt appendices will be published here:

Cambridge Civic Quarter: Scrutiny committee and Cabinet reports - Cambridge City Council

***Appendices 1, 4 and 7 will be updated before the meeting.**

Appendices 1, 4, 6 and 17 to the report contain exempt information and during discussion on these the public is likely to be excluded from the meeting subject to determination by Full 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.

8c Amendment to the Flag Flying Protocol (Pages 429 - 442)

8d Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26 (Pages 443 - 468)

9 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
There are none.

10 National Scheme of Delegation Planning Committee and Building Regulations (Pages 469 - 496)

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

11a Cllr Tong - Fair Pay for Leadership

Last July, whilst Cambridge City Council remained under the control of the Labour Group, full council agreed to give the authority's leader a Special Responsibility Allowance of four times the basic allowance awarded to councillors (a pay increase of £7819) against the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which recommended an allowance of three times the basic allowance. This decision was challenged by both the Green Group and the Liberal Democrat Group on the council, who criticised the lack of integrity shown by the council's Labour leadership.

With Labour losing their majority on Cambridge City Council earlier this year, councillors now have the opportunity to rectify this mistake.

The council resolves:

- To reduce the pay of the Leader of Cambridge City Council from four times the basic allowance to three times the basic allowance, in line with the original recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- To invest this saving into tree planting and maintenance, a service greatly valued by local residents.

11b Cllr Gardiner-Smith - Children's right to play

This Council notes:

- That play is essential to children's physical health, mental wellbeing and development, and is a right under Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- That fewer than half of children in England (49.1%) meet the Chief Medical Officers' guideline of an average of 60 minutes of physical activity a day, falling to 45% of children from the least affluent families compared with 58% from the most affluent (Sport England, 2025).
- That mental health is a major challenge for children and young people growing up today and that children who spend more time in adventurous play, are less likely to develop mental health difficulties later in life. (Dodd et al., 2022,2026)
- That, at the same time, opportunities for children's independence and free play have declined nationally, with outdoor play down around 50% compared with a generation ago (Raising the Nation Play Commission, 2023).
- That children's opportunities to play outside near home have

declined over a generation, and that “No Ball Games” signs, the loss of informal green space and traffic tell children that shared spaces are not for them.

- That the Raising the Nation Play Commission report, Everything to Play For (June 2025), called for a National Play Strategy for England, a statutory duty on councils to secure sufficient opportunities for play, and an end to “No Ball Games” signs.
- Evidence from the University of Cambridge suggests that children who are exposed to more adventurous outdoor play are more likely to develop better risk assessment skills and therefore more access may actually improve children’s safety.
- That the City Council is directly responsible for many of the places where children play: its parks, open spaces and play areas, the shared land around its council homes, and planning decisions made through Greater Cambridge Shared Planning.

This Council believes:

- Every child in Cambridge should be able to play outside with confidence and freedom.
- Local Authorities have an important role to play in supporting healthier childhood and adolescence.
- Children and young people are experts in their own neighbourhoods and have a right to shape decisions about the spaces they use (UNCRC Article 12).
- Children need opportunities for adventurous play, and the Council’s approach to play spaces should weigh the benefits of risk alongside its harms.
- Unequal access to good quality play and green space contributes to unequal health in childhood, and the Council’s investment should favour the neighbourhoods where access is poorest.

This Council resolves:

- To strengthen Cambridge’s play strategy by protecting and expanding opportunities for safe, accessible, adventurous and unstructured outdoor play, including in under-served neighbourhoods.
- To support children’s independence by continuing to prioritise safer active travel routes, including measures that encourage walking and cycling to school.
- To launch a Cambridge More Ball Games campaign, modelled on London Sport’s campaign, to remove “No Ball Games” signs

from Council owned land, including parks, open spaces and housing estates by December 2027. This will include:

  - A public audit of all “No Ball Games” signs in the city with residents and children invited to report signs.
  - Removing signs on council owned land, including parks, open spaces and housing estates, in consultation with children and residents, and to replace signs with positive signage welcoming play where residents want it and encouraging consideration for neighbours.
  - Inviting housing associations and other landowners in the city to remove their own signs, in consultation with children and residents.
- To review Council housing tenancy and estate management policies so that they presume in favour of children’s play in shared spaces, and to support housing officers to resolve neighbour concerns about play without resorting to prohibition.
- To bring forward a new Play and Open Spaces Strategy, based on an assessment of children’s access to play and green space in every ward, with a commitment to increase opportunities for adventurous play, including natural features, and spaces for older children, adopting a risk benefit assessment in the design and management of play spaces.
- To make it easier for children to play out by expanding the Council’s support for resident led play streets, and to ask Cambridgeshire County Council to make temporary play street closures simple and free to apply for.
- To ensure that the Council’s own housing developments and regeneration schemes include doorstep play and green space designed with children, and to seek the same standard in new development through Greater Cambridge Shared Planning.
- To establish a standing way for children and young people to shape Council decisions on play, green space and city design, building on the Youth Assembly and work of the Youth Engagement Team. This will make sure to include the voices of younger children and those least often heard, including disabled children and those in the most deprived neighbourhoods.
- Support the recommendations of the Raising the Nation Play Commission and call on the Government to introduce a National Play Strategy for England.

11c Cllr Baigent - City of Sanctuary

Cambridge is a city of sanctuary. Our own council website states that "we proudly welcome people navigating their new lives in and around Cambridge." However, nationally the Labour Government is moving

towards tougher policies on migration, in particular right to stay. This may prevent many people from coming to live here in the first place, or choosing to stay.

The people who move here to help in our collective success, should have the right to stay and to bring their families.

The council therefore calls on the government to set a benchmark at five years, after which migrants who contribute, can apply for and expect to get, the right to stay. We should recognise employment, education, volunteering, caring responsibilities and family and community relationships, as evidence of contribution and integration. This should include acknowledging children, families and vulnerable adults. It should also acknowledge that not all migrants earn the sort of salaries necessary to pay for applications.

This council resolves to instruct the leader to write to government, particularly the Prime Minister and Home Secretary, setting out our opposition to Shabana Mahmood's new rules on indefinite leave to remain. The leader should clearly state our support for the current and future migrants that are supporting our society and demand that the 5 year settlement period be retained. Copies should also be sent to local MPs requesting their support.

At the same time this council should reaffirm Cambridge's commitment to be a welcoming, inclusive city, from which migrants and refugees living in Cambridge can expect the support of the council and local voluntary and community organisations.

11d Cllr Dryden - Protecting Democratic Scrutiny Through Timely Access to Public Representations

Council notes that:

1. The integrity of the planning process depends upon elected members having timely access to all relevant information and representations before determining planning applications.
2. Public representations form an important part of the planning process and assist members in reaching informed and balanced decisions.
3. Concerns have arisen where representations submitted by members of the public were not made available to Planning Committee members in a timely manner, thereby limiting the opportunity for proper consideration before a decision was taken.

4. Public confidence in the planning system is dependent upon transparency, procedural fairness, and adherence to the principles of natural justice.

Council believes that:

1. Planning decisions must be made based on all relevant information being available to decision-makers in sufficient time for proper consideration.
2. Any process that delays, restricts, or prevents elected members from receiving public representations risks undermining confidence in the Council's decision-making processes.
3. Where there is evidence that relevant representations have not been made available to members in a timely manner, consideration should be given to deferring the application to safeguard the fairness and integrity of the process.

Council resolves to:

1. Request the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to undertake an urgent review of the procedures governing the receipt, handling and distribution of public representations relating to planning applications.
2. Produce a report to members setting out:
   - How representations are processed and distributed;
   - What safeguards are in place to ensure elected members receive all relevant correspondence promptly;
   - Whether any representations have been withheld, delayed, or intercepted within Council systems; and
   - Any legal, governance or procedural implications arising from such actions.
3. Introduce a formal protocol requiring Planning Committee members to be notified immediately where correspondence relating to a planning application has not been distributed as intended.
4. Ensure that where material representations are not provided to members in a timely manner, consideration is given to deferring the application to a future meeting to allow proper scrutiny.
5. Report back to Council with recommendations to strengthen transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the planning process.

11e Cllr Payne - Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Cambridge: Restoring Pride in Our City

Council believes:

That Cambridge residents deserve to live in a city that is safe, clean and which inspires a sense of pride.

Council notes:

· That Cambridgeshire's police force is the fourth worst funded per head in the UK.
· That Cambridgeshire police numbers are falling, despite the population increasing.
· That residents are reporting that Cambridge feels "run down", that cases of anti-social behaviour are increasing, and they have raised the perceived lack of active policing.
· That the City Council ASB team work hard to address issues but need partnership with a properly resourced police force.
· That residents are concerned that there will be a reduced police presence in the city following the relocation of the Cambridge police station to Milton.

Council resolves:

- To write to both of Cambridge's Members of Parliament to request a written response to Council to explain how the national government will address the shortfall in police numbers and funding in Cambridgeshire.
- To work with the Chief Constable to make sure the city gets its appropriate share of resources within the constabulary area, and to work with the neighbourhood policing teams to ensure there is a preventative approach to crime and ASB.
- To invite the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to attend a scrutiny committee to outline the strategic response to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Cambridge.
- To ask the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to review the current reporting procedures, especially those online, to make them as accessible and easy to use as possible, in particular for the most common types of ASB and crimes.
- To write to the Chief Constable to seek assurances that there will remain an active police presence in Cambridge, including a visible police station that is open to residents 24/7.
- To review the City Council's ASB strategy and resourcing and co-ordinate this approach with the work of the police.
- To communicate points of contact to report crime to all residents' and community groups the Council has contact details for, and publish

these on the Council's social media and encourage Cambridgeshire Constabulary to do the same.
- To use its own services to ensure the city's public spaces are well maintained and cleaned to avoid the impression that there is a lack of care in the city.

12	Appointment to Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly: Councillor Baigent	(Pages 497 - 500)
13	Proportionality update	(Pages 501 - 504)

14 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

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

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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.