

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING - 18 APRIL 2013

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Guildhall on Thursday, 18 April 2013 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 10 April 2013

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AP Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2013**
(Pages 1 - 24)
- 2 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME - SEE AT THE FOOT OF THE AGENDA FOR DETAILS OF THE SCHEME**

4 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION

Civic Affairs - 20 March 2013

4a Constitution Amendment : Review of Homelessness Decisions

(Pages 25 - 30)

4b Amendment to Standing Orders of Joint Development Control Committee (Cambridge Fringe Sites) to increase number of alternate members

(Pages 31 - 36)

5 TO DEAL WITH ORAL QUESTIONS

6 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION, NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN BY:

6a Councillor Price and Birtles

The City Council condemns the decision by the Coalition government to introduce the 'Bedroom Tax,' also called the Social Sector Size Criteria, this month whereby over 800 households in Council and Housing Association homes in Cambridge will lose around £70 or £120 per month from their housing benefit unless they move from their homes, which most have lived in for many years.

This Council notes that:

- Many of those affected are both low income and vulnerable individuals or families, with up to two thirds of those affected likely to have a disability, and many already suffering multiple benefit cuts this year.

- The impact will be greatest in those wards which already have high numbers of children living in poverty causing significant impacts on families, with some being forced to move requiring children to change schools.
- Some will struggle to pay a higher rent on low incomes and they risk either falling into debt including rent arrears, or have to choose between eating, heating or rent.
- Some may need to move from the social rented to the private rented sector which may mean even higher rents and less security of tenure.
- In spite of additional transitional funding to reduce the impact of the tax, the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund will be unable to meet the needs of all those affected in either the short or long term, causing severe hardship for many.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Urge the City's two MP's to oppose the 'Bedroom Tax' and lobby Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to repeal this part of the legislation; and instruct the Chief Executive to also write directly to the Secretary of State calling on him to do the same.
2. Urge the Council's Executive to:
 - a) Follow the example of other councils and social landlords and remove the unnecessary bedroom classification from rooms that are really too small to be bedrooms, and avoid unnecessary financial penalties or evictions.
 - b) Ensure that any decision to evict a tenant solely because of the 'Bedroom Tax' and arrears is the responsibility of the Executive Councillor for Housing; that the Executive Councillor be urged to prevent all such evictions, and that any such proposal shall first be reported to Housing Management Board with their decision then guiding the Executive Councillor; and

c) Take all further appropriate measures necessary to minimise the impact of the 'Bedroom Tax' and protect the most vulnerable in Cambridge affected by it until its repeal.

6b Councillor Bick

Council notes that

(i) After many years of talking about it, the government is set to proceed with improvements to the A14;

(ii) Unprecedentedly for a key element of national infrastructure, the government has invited local councils to contribute to the funding of the scheme;

(iii) Our transport authority, the County Council, has approached councils within Cambridgeshire requesting contributions, based on future payback from the financial gain that will accrue to them from unlocked development.

Council regrets that

(a) The proposed A14 scheme is not based on our own case for faster, targeted safety improvements on the road combined with much more investment in east-west rail;

(b) The funding proposition is not accompanied by any opportunity to influence the design of the scheme and the project does not at this stage comprise any plans to address congestion within the city;

(c) The County Council has tried to impose on all councils a funding proposition that is only relevant to some of them.

Council believes that

1. The A14 upgrade is nevertheless likely now to happen and that it will bring some economic benefits to the city region, which it welcomes;

2. Future funds will however not accrue to the City Council arising from the scheme, invalidating the County Council's payback proposition in our case;

3. In addition to the advantages, the broader impact of the scheme is likely to bring additional pressure on traffic congestion within the city itself.

Council resolves to

A. Abstain from making a funding contribution to the A14 upgrade, based on the failure of the payback mechanism in the case of the City Council;

B. Continue contributing what funds it can make available as a non-transport authority, towards providing for public transport and cycling within the city to help mitigate the impact of significantly easier commuting into the city, in particular by starting a "Keep Cambridge Moving Fund" enabling future partnering with the County Council on agreed measures.

7 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.

Information for the Public

Location The meeting is in the Guildhall on the Market Square (CB2 3QJ).

Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the building is accessible via Peas Hill, Guildhall Street and the Market Square entrances.

After 5 p.m. access is via the Peas Hill entrance.

All the meeting rooms (Committee Room 1, Committee 2 and the Council Chamber) are on the first floor, and are accessible via lifts or stairs.

Public Participation Some meetings may have parts that will be closed to the public, but the reasons for excluding the press and public will be given.

Most meetings have an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements.

To ask a question or make a statement please notify the Committee Manager (details listed on the front of the agenda) prior to the deadline.

- For questions and/or statements regarding items on the published agenda, the deadline is the start of the meeting.
- For questions and/or statements regarding items NOT on the published agenda, the deadline is 10 a.m. the day before the meeting.

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Fire Alarm

In the event of the fire alarm sounding please follow the instructions of Cambridge City Council staff.

Facilities for disabled people

Level access to the Guildhall is via Peas Hill.

A loop system is available in Committee Room 1, Committee Room 2 and the Council Chamber.

Accessible toilets are available on the ground and first floor.

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