

Motion No:	Proposed by:	Title
1	Councillor Johnson	Universal Credit
<p>That Universal Credit (UC), a single monthly payment to replace a number of working-age benefits, is due to be fully rolled out in Cambridge by June 2018;</p> <p>The way UC is administered, with recipients in some cases having to wait longer than six weeks for claims to be processed, is leading to real hardship. Across the 105 councils where the housing costs element of UC has already been introduced, the number of council tenants who have rent arrears has risen from less than 10% to 50%;</p> <p>The cuts to work allowances in UC, and the decision to limit tax credit and UC payments to the first two children in a family, will likely increase child poverty;</p> <p>That the pace and change brought about by UC has been condemned by organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Trussell Trust who believe that, without revision, it will do more harm than good for the most vulnerable.</p> <p>This Council recognises:</p> <p>The work it has conducted in recent years with JobCentre Plus, the CAB, credit unions, housing associations and the voluntary sector to prepare for UC and to best assist the most vulnerable in Cambridge in the transition to this new benefit and other changes to the welfare system;</p> <p>The importance of its dedicated teams within City Homes, who are working with tenants at risk of falling into arrears, due to UC and changes to the eligibility criteria for the housing component of UC, thereby helping to support these tenants stay in their homes and prevent homelessness.</p> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <p>Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, requesting him to halt the roll out of UC until further notice, as has been demanded by hundreds of charities and organisations working with the worst off in Britain. We call on the Secretary of State to redesign its administration, as well as reversing planned real-terms cuts to working families and ending payment delay, and for local authorities to pay the housing costs component from UC direct to landlords as is the case with Housing Benefit;</p> <p>Continue working closely with council tenants, and those at risk of being adversely affected by the Government's welfare reforms, through its City Homes and Revenue and Benefit teams and partnership work with other agencies as funded by the Council's Housing Revenue Account, General Fund and Sharing Prosperity Fund;</p> <p>Inform the city's two MPs of this motion and to call for their support in lobbying the Government to achieve our objectives on this issue.</p>		

2	Councillor O'Connell	Improved Councillor Scrutiny of Public Complaints
<p>Council notes the recent year-on-year rises in complaints to the council and their importance as a resource for improving services to the public. On the most significant issues raised, it believes there should be an opportunity for more of a public closure and plan for the future with the involvement of elected representatives, than is allowed for by the current minimal section of the Annual Complaints Report.</p> <p>It therefore resolves to provide an automatic public review by councillors of the three service areas with most complaints across the council each year, based on detailed reports to the relevant scrutiny committees in the autumn meeting cycle, together with recommended improvement plans.</p> <p>It calls on the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders, to define a fair and workable procedure for implementation.</p>		

The housing market in Cambridge is broken. The majority of residents cannot afford to rent or buy a property in the city. This is particularly the case for people on low salaries doing critical jobs such as care workers, nurses and teachers. Private rents have increased by 20% since 2014 (median private rent). In addition, affordable rents in Cambridge are not affordable for very many people. The Housing needs register has over 2,500 households seeking accommodation, with over 1,500 single households making up the register.

In the medium to long term, this issue can only be addressed by a fundamental review of the level of supply of housing of all kinds in and around Cambridge. However, in the short term, key stakeholders in the city should act to relieve this unacceptable pressure for residents.

The City Council, as a key stakeholder in the city, has a unique opportunity at this time to use its financial and social capital to help to address this important problem.

The Mill Road Depot site provides one of a small number of large strategic sites in the centre of the city that the council can use to address these critical housing issues. This is particularly the case as the Council is the owner of the majority of the site and is in receipt of £70m of devolved funds to build 500 social homes.

This council therefore calls on the Leader and the Executive Councillors for Housing and Finance to bring forward plans for the Mill Road Depot that:

- reflect the feedback from the public consultations undertaken - in particular the provision of community facilities
- have a level of affordable housing on the site of at least 80% (with the majority being social housing – rented on a Local Authority rental basis – as defined by Cambridgeshire Insight)
- provide an element of properties on the site that are rented on a ‘Local Living Rent’ basis to key workers (ie based on one third of an individual’s net income – rather than with reference to a discount to market rents) - this would be one of the first schemes of this nature outside London
- ensure that the development of the site is undertaken on the highest level of sustainability – including limiting the use of car usage on the site to a minimum and encouraging sustainable transport

4	Councillor Smart	Fair Pay for Public Sector Staff
<p>Cambridge City Council notes that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For most local government workers, pay and conditions are determined nationally by the National Joint Council (NJC) and, on average, NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2010. • NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010 to 2012 and have received capped 1% pay increases annually since then. • While bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements are welcome, these have squeezed pay grade differentials between lower paid staff. • The majority of NJC workers are women and the gender pay gap has widened in the public sector since the pay cap was introduced. <p>The Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the GMB campaign to end the public sector Pay Pinch and end continuous cuts to public sector real pay, while being committed to protecting quality service delivery and council jobs, and will contact the Local Government Association and all East Region employer representatives on the NJC to that effect in relation to the 2018 local government pay negotiations. • Welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the effects of bottom-loaded pay settlements. • In addition to already paying at least the Living Wage to all its staff, shares the GMB objective for a Living Wage of at least £10 an hour for all public sector workers, and the Council will investigate increasing minimum pay to City Council staff to £10 per hour from 2018. • Will write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, copied to GMB supporting the Pay Pinch campaign and the end to real public sector pay cuts, and to call on Government to provide vital extra funding to the public sector to achieve fair pay settlements without cutting services or jobs. 		

5	Councillor Herbert	Membership of Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
<p>This Council is asked to agree to change the size of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee from 6 members to 8 members for the remainder of the Municipal Year and to note that the two seats will be taken by the Independent and Green Group and the Labour Group.</p> <p>Council notes that this change does not affect the proportionality overall of seats on committees in any other way.</p>		