

COUNCIL21 February 2011
6.00pm – 10.05pm

Present: Councillors Stuart (Chair), Nimmo-Smith (Vice-Chair), Al Bander, Benstead, Bick, Blackhurst, Blair, Brown, Cantrill, Hart, Herbert, Kerr, Kightley, Levy, Marchant-Daisley, McGovern, McPherson, Newbold, Owers, Pitt, Pogonowski, Reid, Rosenstiel, Saunders, Shah, Smart, Smith, Swanson, Taylor, Todd-Jones, Tunnacliffe, Walker, Ward, Wright and Znajek

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

11/10/CNL Mayors Announcements

The Mayor read out the following statement regarding the public disruption and subsequent action by the Council at the meeting of 17 February 2011:

“The original plan was to remove all persons from the balcony into the corridor behind – thus enabling us to remove persons causing the disturbance in a safe manner. It was felt that attempting to remove individuals from an occupied balcony could have resulted in someone falling over the edge.

We had always intended non-disruptive residents would be let back into the gallery after those causing the disturbance had been removed from the building. However this was not possible as protestors would not leave peacefully.

In trying to control a difficult incident, police and security staff decided to move all members of the public outside the Guildhall.

The protestors were removed from the Guildhall the police arrested and de-arrested a number of them. Some sought to find their way back into the Guildhall at this point, testing doors around the building. At this stage there was some disturbance outside the Peas Hill door.

The Chief Executive did go downstairs with the intention of reopening the public gallery, but police advice to the Chief Executive was that she should not try to let people into the building at that point as it was likely to exacerbate tensions outside. It would also be difficult to distinguish who should and should not be let back in and would create a further flashpoint at the door.

It was therefore with great regret she made the decision to keep the doors closed and informed me of this. It was not an ideal situation and as soon as tension outside the door had calmed down she did make the decision to let those members of the public left to come back into the Chamber.”

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting, which was being held to finish the business from the adjourned meeting of 17 February 2011.

The Mayor respectfully reminded the public that in the event of any interruption of proceedings, a warning would be issued. If the interruption continued, the person or persons would be removed.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Boyce, Brierley, Dixon, Dryden, Hipkin, Sanders and Zmura.

11/11/CNL To consider the following Notices of Motion, notice of which had been given by:

11/11a/CNL Motion A

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Blair seconded the following motion:

“On the 17th of February 1946 the City Council welcomed back surviving Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOWs) from the Cambridge area at a civic reception. Sixty five years on, we record our respect and gratitude to all of them and their families, including the gallant survivors in their 90s who returned to the Guildhall today. The Council joins with them in remembering and paying tribute to their many other comrades from that time from Cambridgeshire and beyond who died or suffered due to horrific mistreatment between 1942 and 1945.”

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

11/11b/CNL Motion B

Councillor Owers proposed and Councillor McPherson seconded the following motion:

"The Council notes the success of the previous government's policy of introducing Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), a payment of up to £30 a week to young people from low income families who remain in post-16 education.

The Council notes the conclusions of the Institute for Fiscal Studies's report on EMA, which confirms that EMA significantly increased participation rates in post-16 education, and that it had other valuable consequences, such as encouraging better attendance.

The Council notes the government's decision to abolish EMA from September 2011, and the recent vote in parliament to that effect. The Council also notes that many young people in Cambridge benefit from EMA, particularly at Cambridge Regional College, and therefore stand to lose out from this government decision.

The Council condemns the government's decision to scrap the Educational Maintenance Allowance as a short-sighted and unfair policy that will result in many young people from low-income families no longer being able to continue in education.

The Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the MP's for Cambridge stating our opposition to the government's attempt to abolish EMA and urging them to oppose the abolition of EMA in parliament, as well as to the Secretary of State for Education to set out its opposition to plans for the abolition of EMA."

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Pitt seconded the following amendment:

Delete all and replace:

"This Council recognises the importance of removing barriers to full participation in education and training for young people.

Council notes that the Coalition Government has already increased funding for deprivation within the 16 to 19 budget and has begun to replace the educational maintenance allowance with more targeted support for those who face genuine barriers to remaining in post -16 education.

Council believes that more targeted approaches will benefit those young people who most need support. However Council recognises that such decisions taken by the government need to be carefully targeted and calls on Cambridge's two MPs to work with the new Advocate for Access to Education and the Department for Education to ensure that no young people in Cambridge are prevented from going to school or College because of cost."

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 24 votes to 11.

Under paragraph 46.2 of the Council Procedure Rules, Councillors Herbert and Benstead requested a named vote concerning the substantive motion, details of which are included in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED (by 21 votes to 11) that:

"This Council recognises the importance of removing barriers to full participation in education and training for young people.

Council notes that the Coalition Government has already increased funding for deprivation within the 16 to 19 budget and has begun to replace the educational maintenance allowance with more targeted support for those who face genuine barriers to remaining in post -16 education.

Council believes that more targeted approaches will benefit those young people who most need support. However Council recognises that such decisions taken by the government need to be carefully targeted and calls on Cambridge's two MPs to work with the new Advocate for Access to Education and the Department for Education to ensure that no young people in Cambridge are prevented from going to school or College because of cost."

11/11c/CNL Motion C

Councillor Hart proposed and Councillor Pogonowski seconded the following motion:

“The Council notes that Cambridgeshire County Council is cutting bus subsidies and Stagecoach has threatened to withdraw bus services that will adversely impact on the City. We call upon the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth and the Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services to resurrect meetings of the Community and Public Transport Steering Group.”

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Mayor used her discretion to alter the order of the agenda in order to take Motion E next. However, for the ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the agenda.

11/11d/CNL Motion D

Councillor Walker proposed and Councillor Todd-Jones seconded the following motion:

“This Council has an important role to play in the health and well being of the population of Cambridge, and acknowledges the need to ensure that:

- a. people of all ages, including young people, have access to, and enjoy, resources within the City, and
- b. the benefits promised via developer contributions are actually delivered.

This Council has already established the need for a City Centre Youth Venue, and approved some funding, and now wishes to progress this as a matter of urgency.

It therefore requests the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health to:

- 1) Actively take this forward in the next financial year, exploring options including partnerships with other organisations, with a view to providing a suitable and easily accessible venue for young people during the day and in the evenings.
- 2) Bring a report to Community Services at the earliest opportunity, outlining the options and possible ways forward."

Councillor Bick proposed and Councillor Blair seconded the following amendment:

Delete all and replace:

"The Council notes that for some time the direction for increasing facilities for young people has been to enhance a variety of existing locations and that progress towards this was accomplished with the substantial investment in the Junction to meet the needs of young people using the Leisure Park. The Council re-affirms this approach as most likely to meet the differentiated needs and interests of young people and to deliver progress in the closest timescale. It calls on officers, working with partners, to persist with this strategy, and to bring recommendations to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Councillor as new opportunities for further stages are identified."

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 24 votes to 8.

RESOLVED (by 24 votes to 0) that:

"The Council notes that for some time the direction for increasing facilities for young people has been to enhance a variety of existing locations and that progress towards this was accomplished with the substantial investment in the Junction to meet the needs of young people using the Leisure Park. The Council re-affirms this approach as most likely to meet the differentiated needs and interests of young people and to deliver progress in the closest timescale. It calls on officers, working with partners, to persist with this strategy, and to bring recommendations to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and Executive Councillor as new opportunities for further stages are identified."

11/11e/CNL Motion E

Councillor Rosenstiel proposed and Councillor Brown seconded the following motion:

“This Council expresses its deep concern at County Council proposals to axe all subsidies to bus services, including the City Centre Shuttle bus.

It believes this will seriously undermine access to the City Centre pedestrian zone and would break commitments made when the zone was introduced under which the bus service was introduced as well as break the Highway Authority's Disability Discrimination obligations.

Its concern is heightened by the County's claim that currently subsidized bus services might be saved by community transport initiatives because the Shuttle can only be provided as a free service under the rules of highway law.

It instructs officers to investigate ways, without the City Council taking over the County Councils' responsibilities, that the service can be saved so that access to City Centre facilities is maintained and the Highway Authority's Disability Discrimination obligations are not breached.”

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

11/11f/CNL Motion F

Councillors Pogonowski proposed and Councillor Wright seconded the following motion:

“The Green Group shares the conclusions reached by many, especially those by Liverpool City Council and Dame Elizabeth Hoodless, Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers, that the Coalition's aspirations for 'The Big Society' are doomed so long as local authorities are forced to make massive funding cuts.

We know that Cambridge has a proud tradition of volunteering and that many voluntary bodies have been supported by the City Council in the past.

We therefore call upon the Leader of Cambridge City Council to:

- (a) Reject the notion of the Big Society as conceived by the Coalition Government;
- (b) Write to the City's MPs urging them to vote against further cuts to public services and community group-funding;
- (c) Reassure voluntary groups, which have been supported in the past, that, given a fair assessment of their work, they can rely upon funding in the future."

On a show of hands the motion was lost by 10 votes to 21.

11/11g/CNL Motion G

Councillor Bick proposed and Councillor Smith seconded the following motion:

"The Council notes with concern the level of anti-social behaviour associated with the night-time economy in the centre of the City and welcomes the inter-agency review to be presented at the next West/Central Area Committee of how the available tools and resources are being used to curb the problem and whether there are means of using them to greater effect.

It welcomes the recent decision of our Community Safety Partnership to adopt alcohol related violent crime in the City Centre as one of its three city-wide priorities, as this will also help us tackle the anti-social behaviour associated with the night-time economy.

In addition the Council welcomes the Coalition Government's plans to enable the imposition of levies on late night licenses, both to encourage licensees to take more responsibility for the effects of alcohol they sell, and to meet the costs of policing, clean-up and repair in public space that results. The Council instructs representations to be made on its behalf to local MPs and relevant Ministers to expedite the legislation and to work to ensure it is shaped to assist with Cambridge's problem."

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

11/12/CNL Written Questions

Members noted the written questions and answers circulated around the Chamber.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm

CHAIR

Appendix 1:**Vote on: Motion B Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

NAME	FOR	AGAINST	NO VOTE	NAME	FOR	AGAINST	NO VOTE
Al Bander	X			Nimmo-Smith	X		
Benstead		X		Owers		X	
				Pitt	X		
Bick	X			Pogonowski		X	
Blackhurst	X			Reid	X		
Blair	X			Rosenstiel	X		
Boyce		Absent		Saunders	X		
Brierley		Absent		Sanders		Absent	
Brown	X			Shah			X
Cantrill		Absent		Smart	X		
Dixon		Absent		Smith	X		
Dryden		Absent		Stuart	X		
Hart		X		Swanson	X		
Herbert		X		Taylor	X		
Hipkin		Absent		Todd-Jones		X	
Kerr	X			Tunnacliffe			X
Kightley	X			Walker		X	
Levy	X			Ward	X		

Marchant-Daisley		X		Wright		X	
McGovern	X			Zmura		Absent	
McPherson		X		Znajek	X		
Newbold		X					