



## Council 26 May

### Decisions

Full meeting recording available on the Council's You Tube channel

1. Elect a Mayor 2022/23
  - Councillor Mark Ashton
2. Elect a Deputy Mayor 2022/23
  - Councillor Jenny Gawthrop-Wood
3. Minutes 24 February/3 March
  - Agreed

#### 8a. Civic Affairs Committee/Report of Chief Executive

- Agreed to continue with Area Committees held virtually until further notice
- Agreed to appoint Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee 9 members; Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee 9 members; Housing Scrutiny Committee 9 members; Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee 9 members; Civic Affairs Committee 6 members; Employment (Senior Officer) Committee 6 members; Licensing Committee 10 members; Planning Committee 9 members. For full details see [Committee structure - Cambridge Council](#)
- Agree that alternate members on regulatory committees can be more than one per political group.
- Agree Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out in the Information Pack page 13 and 14.

## 12 Notices of Motion

- 12a-Agreed the Motion as amended:

Cambridge City Council declared climate and biodiversity emergencies in 2019, and shared a vision for Cambridge to be Net Zero by 2030. Furthermore, Cambridge City Council has developed a Sustainable Food Policy Statement (in response to an earlier motion by Cllr Oscar Gillespie), and led by Cambridge Sustainable Food, a key partner of the in which Cambridge City Council, is a partner, Cambridge has been awarded Silver status by Sustainable Food Places. This Friday 27 May sees the launch of the campaign to see Cambridge become only the third city to gain and recently announced it is working towards Ggold status after Bristol and Brighton and Hove.

It is increasingly recognised that meat and dairy production is a significant contributor to climate breakdown, with the livestock sector accounting for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, as well as being a major contributor to global deforestation. The catastrophic effects of climate breakdown mean climate and risk experts predict a world with systemic cascading risks related to food insecurity including food shortages, societal tensions, hunger and malnutrition, unrest and conflict (according to a Chatham house report from 2021), which furthermore predicts a 50% chance of synchronous crop failure in the decade of the 2040s.

As well as a smaller carbon footprint, eating more plant-based foods also reduces the land footprint of our diets and would improve UK food security and self-sufficiency, thereby making our diets more local. We currently import much more food than we export. Meat and dairy is our second biggest food group trade deficit (£4.2 billion pounds a year); we also have a £1.3 billion pound trade deficit in animal feed. In the UK less than 40% of our cereals are eaten by people and almost 60% are fed to livestock: this is a huge food waste issue. East Anglia is predominantly arable farming and there are many local predominantly plant-based food businesses we could support.

The Government commissioned National Food Strategy (July 2021) recommended meat consumption should be reduced by 30% to help

food security for future generations, and the Government's independent Climate Change Committee recommended that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food options. Over 40% of Britons are trying to reduce their meat consumption and 14% already follow a flexitarian diet, but plant-based food options are not consistently available at all events nor food venues. Other countries have taken a stance, for example in Portugal it is a legal requirement for all public catering – including local authority facilities – to provide plant-based food options, and other local authorities such as Oxfordshire County Council have decided to promote plant-based food via serving a fully plant-based menu at Council meetings and events. Locally, the University of Cambridge Catering Service reduced food-related greenhouse gas emissions by a third via replacing beef and lamb with plant-based products.

It is therefore important that Cambridge City Council builds on its achievements to date and leads by example to promote and normalise consumption of plant-based food, recognising that plant-based meals are frequently nutritious and low cost food options. This is in line with its vision for Cambridge City to be net-zero carbon by 2030.

#### Council notes:

- The leading role that the council has played since 2018 in helping focus on food sustainability across Cambridge, and the significant work put into developing a more sustainable food system by a number of organisations in the city – including Cambridge Sustainable Food.
- The significant achievement of being awarded silver status as a sustainable food city.
- The continued commitment of the council to working with partners to establish a more just, more sustainable food system for our city.

#### Council therefore resolves to:

1. Begin to transition to fully plant-based catering for all future Council meetings where food is served, ensuring that this provided more cheaply or at the same cost as existing provision is cheaper or the same cost.

2. Investigate fully the practicalities of using Cambridge City Council Civic events to promote and showcase plant-based food options, alongside displayed information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources.
3. After ~~exploring engaging with~~ a wide variety of catering options (including consideration of social enterprises), bring a costed report of fully plant-based catering options for Civic events to an future Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee within 6 months.
4. Ensure that there is a minimum of one ~~are~~ plant-based food options available at all City Council run events which involve catering (ie minimum from at least one caterer), where reasonably possible.
5. When events occur on City Council open spaces, ~~and where catering is provided, ensure that plant-based options are available (ie minimum from at least one caterer)~~, secured through the use of terms and conditions of hire (where reasonably possible), a commitment that that plant-based options will be made available (ie: from at least one caterer).
6. Secure through a contract specification, when re-tendering for suppliers that plant-based food and drink options will ~~are to be~~ available at kiosks on ~~City Council~~ run open spaces and ~~Council run~~ cafes (where reasonably possible). Similarly ~~where~~ reasonably possible, via future contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers for ~~Council~~ run cafes, specify that vegetable/legume rich plant-based options are listed prominently on menus, above non plant-based options (e.g. jacket potato and baked beans or tomato pasta would be listed above burger and chips).  
Continue to work with Cambridge Sustainable Food to promote sustainable (and affordable) food practices throughout the city including giving full support to the Going for Gold Campaign.

## 12b-Agreed

- 1 This council continues to stand by its original 2020 declaration that trans rights are human rights.
- 2 It calls upon the government to restore its manifesto promise to introduce a full “conversion therapy” ban at the earliest possible opportunity and instructs the council to write to Elizabeth Truss, Equalities Minister to that effect

- 3 The council also wishes to list upon the public record the following steps that it has taken to promote fairness for the LGBTIQ+ community since October 2020:
  - a. Annual briefings for staff and councillors on transgender awareness
  - b. Financial support for charities and community organisations
  - c. Participation in LGBTIQ+ community events such as LGBT+ history month
  - d. Partnering with LGBTIQ+ community organisations such as Kite Trust and Encompass Network

12c agreed the Motion as amended

Council welcomes the fact that the Cambridge Investment Partnership does not requests the Executive Councillor for Transformation, Finance & Resources by all feasible means to bring a rapid end to the practice of marketing new homes in which the council has a financial interest to overseas property investors.; Council also welcomes the and replace it with an unlimited 100% local marketing strategy, employed by Cambridge Investment Partnership, focused, as it does on those wanting to live and/or work in Cambridge, regardless of country of origin. The due diligence carried out by CIP of prospective purchasers of new homes for sale, has ensured, where possible, that new homes will be for those working and living in the city. Council also notes that CIP has established a national profile for innovation and good practice, whereby profits made from house sales can be used to reinvest in City Council activities, whilst at the same time provide 236 new Council homes for those in most need.

For more information please contact Democratic Services:

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