

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday 17th February 2015 at 10.30a.m.

Lunch will be provided.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by the Right Reverend John Flack, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Ely, and former Bishop of Huntingdon

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 16th December 2014 (previously circulated)
2. Announcements (oral)
3. Report of the County Returning Officer (oral)
To report that Councillor XXX was elected to fill the vacancy in the Bar Hill Electoral Division in the by-election held on 12th February 2015
4. Declarations of Interests (oral)
[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-decoint>]
5. Public Question Time (oral)
To receive and respond to questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.3.
6. Petitions (oral)
To receive petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.4.

7. Item for Determination from General Purposes Committee

**Council's Business Plan and Budget Proposals
2015-20**

(white)

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the General Purposes Committee and an extract of the minutes of the meeting have been sent to all Members under separate cover and are available via the following link:

Report and Minutes: <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-gpc-150127>

8. Narrowing the Gap in Deprivation Levels Across the County – Service Committee Indicators (green)

9. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Paul Bullen

The council believes that:

- It will be increasingly difficult to balance the budget for future years without a significant increase in grant funding, a rise in Council Tax above 1.99%, the identification of additional savings or the creation of additional revenue streams;
- Public service organisations in Cambridgeshire have responded to the enormous financial challenges faced over the past several years in an innovative and responsible manner. However significant funding shortfalls and continued pressure on public sector budgets persist, and at some point these financial pressures will inevitably have an impact on the ability of local government organisations to deliver good quality and safe services to the residents of Cambridgeshire;
- It is therefore in the public interest to explore all possible areas where savings can be made and it is the responsibility of Elected Members to ensure that council tax payers do not pay for services which are neither required nor justified.

The council notes that:

- Between April 2013 and March 2014 this council spent £2,385.63 on providing free tea and coffee in the Members' Lounge and that this figure does not

include monies spent during June and October 2013 as the expenditure for these months is currently unavailable. Therefore, it is probable that the total expenditure was in the region of £2810.76;

- During the same period, this council spent £3,612.24 on the provision of free tea and coffee to members who were attending meetings;
- The total expenditure, during the period April 2013 to March 2014, on providing free tea and coffee to Elected Members was in the region of £6423.00;
- The total expenditure on the provision of free tea and coffee to Elected Members for the Financial Year 2014 to 2015 is expected to be significantly more than that for the Financial Year 2013 to 2014;
- In the current financial situation, all Local Authorities are finding it harder to provide essential care services to their residents who need them and that all possible additional savings should be explored;
- Northamptonshire County Council does not provide free tea and coffee to elected members during meetings;
- Free tea and coffee is not provided to staff or contractors of this council whilst at their place of work.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to:

- Stop the provision of free tea and coffee to Elected Members of this council and to use the funds saved for the provision of Care Services to the people of Cambridgeshire;
- Investigate the provision of a 'cost free' vending machine to be installed in the Members' Lounge so that members are able to purchase beverages if they so desire.

[The Chairman advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted].

(b) Motion from Councillor John Hipkin

As confirmation of its continuing commitment to the redevelopment of Fenland communities this Council welcomes the recent publication of Connecting North Cambridgeshire:

Infrastructure for Growth which has been endorsed by Leaders of Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council as well as the MP for North East Cambridgeshire, Stephen Barclay. The proposals in the publication are to be commended not only for the benefits they would bring to Wisbech as a result of strategic improvements to transport infrastructure but also for what they would do to ease some of the current development pressures on the city of Cambridge.

This Council calls for the wide dissemination of the document and for the urgent implementation of the measures it calls for.

[The Chairman advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted].

(c) Motion from Councillor Sandra Crawford

This Council notes:

- That the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated between the US and the EU supposedly to pursue the interest of free trade.
- TTIP negotiations are being conducted behind closed doors between representatives of the EU and US without transparency or democratic accountability.
- TTIP would open up access to government procurement markets and eliminate preferential treatment to local suppliers and introduce investment protection provisions that include investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms which allow investors to challenge state actions which they perceive as threatening to their investment. The biggest example for the UK is the marketization of the NHS and Social care. This would open services to US corporations, and limit local democratic choice. Corporations perceiving a loss to their profits or even future profits could challenge decisions which do not allow them to invest in the local markets.
- The potential implications of TTIP with respect to Cambridgeshire, affects democratic decisions relating to procurement for social and public services. Cambridgeshire County Farms are subject to EU laws and are also vulnerable to the implications of TTIP regulations.
- ISDS mechanisms allow for disputes between investors and governments to be heard by tribunals of

“experts” – corporate lawyers rather than resolved by the host state’s courts, and conducted in private. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently explained that “foreign investors have recently used ISDS claims to challenge measures adopted by states in the public interest (for example, policies to promote social equity, foster environmental protection or protect public health).

This Council believes that:

- The TTIP negotiations are potentially catastrophic for Cambridgeshire public services as the EU/US representatives are negotiating to hand over the right to regulate in the public interest without transparency or accountability to their electorates.
- ISDS mechanisms would make it hard for any government to reverse liberalisation and privatisation without being sued by foreign investors, or to make choices for local businesses to thrive, as foreign businesses would have equal rights to invest. So whatever voters actually wanted, the trade treaty would place major barriers in the way of government giving expression to their democratic will. This could make any democratic changes to the NHS impossible. US corporations will be able to invest in local services, and sue the state for any local decisions which hinder their investment. This impacts on Local government procurement choices.
- ISDS threatens the right of local government departments to encourage buying locally, ethically or in order to promote disadvantaged suppliers. It is therefore detrimental to local entrepreneurs. ISDS threatens the local environment – regulations placed on companies could be difficult to enforce regarding pollution or other detrimental effects, as corporations could sue the state for loss of profit. In some authorities, this could be caused by chemical leakage into a river, fracking or pollution. In Cambridgeshire this could affect farming, as regulations on GM crops and various growth hormones will be harmonized with the US.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills, the MPs representing Cambridgeshire and all regional MEPs

raising our serious concerns about the developing TTIP, the secretiveness of its process and its potential impact on public services, social and environmental protection, financial regulation and basic democratic oversight.

- To call upon the Chief Executive to write to the Local Government Association to urge them to lobby on behalf of all Local Authorities on the potential impact of the TTIP.
- To publicise the council's concern/opposition to TTIP amongst local residents and workplaces.

[The Chairman advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted].

(d) Motion from Councillor Paul Sales

There has been widespread public concern within the County about the future of Hinchingbrooke Hospital.

Circle Health Care took over responsibility for operating Hinchingbrooke Health Care Trust (HHCT) through a ten year franchise arrangement with effect from 1st February 2012.

The management of Circle came before the County's Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21st March 2012 when their hospital business plan was considered.

The overall plan was to run the hospital at a profit with a view to paying off the historic £40m debt over the lifetime of the ten year franchise and also to make the hospital a 'world class' small general hospital.

Various commitments were made by Circle in that meeting and are recorded in the minutes. Significantly the then head of Circle's business development said that 'Circle would remain committed (to the hospital), and had made a commitment that Hinchingbrooke would never make a loss'. (Page 4, 4th paragraph).

The business plan also included £928k of unidentified savings which the members queried.

This was a challenging meeting for Circle and members were concerned that the financial arrangements were not viable.

The scrutiny committee was very concerned about the contractual details and asked for a copy of the franchise

agreement. This took a long time to arrive and was of little use in determining Circle's specific responsibilities and undertakings because it was heavily redacted on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

On 5th February 2013 Circle again appeared before the Scrutiny committee.

The minutes show that:

The fourth paragraph on page 1 notes that the overspend for the year would be greater than projected.

On page 2, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, significant details of the franchise agreement emerged which we were not aware of previously. i.e. that Circle were required to meet losses only up to a certain amount, that the contract contained a get out clause, and the £40m historic debt was frozen. (No mention here of interest on this sum)

Much other detail has subsequently come to light and Circle Health Care pulled out of the franchise at the end of January this year.

The circumstances surrounding Circle's involvement with Hinchingbrooke Hospital have been examined by the government's Public Accounts Committee and were heavily criticised.

It has been announced that the Hospital will return to NHS management but no detailed arrangements have so far emerged.

I call upon Council to write to the Secretary of State:

- a) Expressing this authority's concern about the franchising exercise and the subsequent impact on the quality of services offered by the Hinchingbrooke Hospital.
- b) Requesting that detailed future plans for the management of the Hospital should be clarified and made explicit as a matter of urgency and that, as the Authority responsible for scrutinising the NHS in Cambridgeshire, we should be involved.
- c) That due to our previous involvement in scrutinising the franchising process this Authority should be involved in an investigation to determine what went wrong.

[The Chairman advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted].

10. Questions:

(a) **Oral Questions** (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

(oral)

Members will be invited to ask questions of:

- the Leader of Council
- the Chairman/woman of any Committee
- representatives on the Fire Authority

Note: questions should relate to business discussed at a committee meeting, any matter relevant to the business of the Council and/or matter which affects the County of Cambridgeshire. The maximum time allowed for questions and answers will be 60 minutes.

(b) **Written Questions** (Council Procedure Rule 9.2)

(oral)

To note responses to written questions from Councillors submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

Dated 6th February 2015



Quentin Baker
Director of LGSS Law,
Property and Governance
& Monitoring Officer

The County Council is committed to open government and members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. It supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking photographs at meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chairman of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request:
<http://tinyurl.com/cccfilm-record>

The Council cannot provide car parking on the Shire Hall site so you will need to use nearby public car parks. Details of other transport options are available on the Council's website at: <http://tinyurl.com/ccccarpark>

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact Michelle Rowe at the County Council's Democratic Services on (01223) 699180 or by email at: michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk