

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 1.30p.m.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by the Reverend Dorothy Peyton Jones, Team Leader, Chaplaincy to People at Work

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 16th February 2016 (previously circulated)

2. Announcements (oral)

3. Report of the County Returning Officer (oral)

To report that Councillor Lorna Dupré was elected to fill the vacancy in the Sutton Electoral Division in the by-election held on 18th February 2016

4. Declarations of Interests (oral)

[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/cccdcoint>]

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

Scheme of Financial Management

To consider the following recommendations arising from the General Purposes Committee meeting on 15th March 2016 (minute 214 refers):

- a) Recommend to Council that it approves the revised Scheme of Financial Management for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.
- b) Recommend to Council that it delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to approve any changes as may be necessary from time to time to reflect and take account of changes in legislation, guidance, Council policy, decisions of the Council and any drafting changes or improvements to the Scheme of Financial Management (see section 2.5).

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the General Purposes Committee and the minutes of the meeting are available via the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/ccg-gpc-150316>

8. Arrangements for Milton Keynes Council to join LGSS Joint Committee shared services partnership (pages 9-76)
9. Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 (pages 77-84)
10. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendations to full Council
 - a) Mini Review of Governance Procedures (pages 85-108)
11. Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board Delegations (pages 109-126)
12. Committees - Allocation of seats and substitutes to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules (to be tabled)
13. Appointments to Outside Organisations (to be tabled)
14. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor John Hipkin

This Council notes the contents of the recent Cambridgeshire Research Group (CRG) IMD Summary of IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) data for Cambridgeshire comparing the differences in national and local ranks and deciles from IMD 2010 to IMD 2015.

This Council further notes the main findings of the CRG Summary as follows:

- Compared to 2010, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire now rank as more deprived in national terms than previously - Cambridge City

- ranks as less deprived.
- Cambridgeshire now has 16 LSOAs (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) in the 20% most deprived nationally – this is compared to 9 in 2010. Two are in Cambridge City, two are in Huntingdonshire and 12 are in Fenland.
- Four of the LSOAs in Fenland are in the 10% most deprived nationally, all of which are in Wisbech. Eight of the top 10 most deprived LSOAs in Cambridgeshire are in Fenland. Two are in Cambridge City.

This Council notes the ongoing work of the Wisbech 2020 project and the continued benefits it expects to bring.

However this Council regards this latest data as disappointing and deeply concerning and calls upon the County Council to:

- embrace and promote policies for the regeneration of the most deprived parts of Cambridgeshire on an equal footing to those designed to stimulate the growth of the more prosperous parts of the county
- expedite capital projects, such as the Wisbech to Cambridge rail link, which will do much to connect comparatively isolated market towns and villages in Cambridgeshire to those areas of the county where employment opportunities are greater
- resolve that as the County's Business Plan gets under way, the Council will be especially mindful and give special weight in their deliberations to the impact proposed measures will have upon the county's most disadvantaged communities.

* [Lower Layer Super Output Areas](#) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales.

[The Monitoring Officer 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 Joan Whitehead

The Children and Young People's Committee has become increasingly concerned about the performance of many of the secondary schools in Cambridgeshire all but one of which are now academies.

According to Ofsted 16 (53%) of schools in Cambridgeshire are

rated good or outstanding; 14 (43%) require improvement and 1 (4%) is in special measures. This means that in Cambridgeshire only 49% of all secondary school pupils attend schools rated good or outstanding. So although there are some high performing academies in Cambridgeshire, there are many who are failing their pupils.

This raises an important question, namely who is responsible for the performance of academies?

There is, unfortunately, no clear answer to this question.

The situation is that:-

1. Councils have a responsibility to monitor achievement in all schools.
2. Academies, however, are ultimately responsible to Secretary of State for Education via Regional Commissioners and are deemed to be free from Local Authority control, as the Local Government Association (LGA) have pointed out 'Currently academies are not subject to any statutory intervention, but are governed by their funding agreement with the DfE'

This produces an anomalous situation where Councils are responsible for educational achievement in academies but have no real powers to improve achievement levels if they are unsatisfactory.

Regional Commissioners to whom academies are ultimately responsible currently also have limited powers.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Commons Education Select Committee concluded that the scrutiny of academy schools is confused, fragmented and lacks transparency and that a fundamental reassessment of accountability and oversight of schools is necessary.

The LGA has pointed out that Local Councils have a good track record in raising educational standards and quickly turning around schools that require improvement or are in special measures; nationally 80% of schools still in the maintained sector are rated outstanding or good compared with 69% of academies. The LGA believe that this proves that Councils should be regarded as education improvement partners and be able to support the work of Regional Commissioners.

The proposal before Council is to request the Chief Executive, the Executive Director for Children and Young People, the Director for Learning and the Chair of the Young People's Committee to write jointly to the Chair of the Education Select Committee :-

1. To support the members of the Education Select Committee in their conclusion about academies and urge them to continue to pressure the Government to take seriously not just the issue of accountability and oversight of academies, but the even more pressing issue of the need for intervention to help failing academies.
2. To reinforce the point made to them by the LGA that Councils should be actively involved in the improvement of failing academies; and they should urge the Government to enable this to happen by giving Councils the powers to intervene in academies to improve their performance, just as they have in maintained schools, and that the allocation to Councils from the schools budget should contain adequate provision for school improvement.

[The Monitoring Officer 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 Peter Downes

Council notes that:

- the disparity of funding of schools across the country is a long-standing problem and is in urgent need of reform
- that Cambridgeshire has been one of the worst-funded authorities because its current funding is still based on historic decisions made by this Council 30 years ago
- many people of different political persuasions and professional perspectives have lobbied hard in an attempt to reform the funding system

Council therefore

- welcomes the government's commitment to a root-and-branch reform of education funding and acknowledges the detailed work that has gone into the current consultation on a national funding formula
- agrees with the broad principles that funding for the education of young people should reflect their needs and should not be dependent on where they live nor on decisions made in different times
- will make a detailed and vigorous contribution to debate on this topic over the coming weeks

Council is nevertheless concerned that

- the draft proposals appear to reduce even further the role of the local democracy in state-funded education by making all schools directly funded by central government from 2019-20
- the draft proposals in relation to school growth appear to limit the flexibility of local authorities to respond to the specific needs of their areas
- there is no extra funding available to ease the transition to a new formula and that division between the 'winners' and 'losers' will be exacerbated
- the protection of the national allocation to schools in 'flat cash' terms is actually a cut in real terms as schools face increasing costs

Council calls on the Chief Executive to work with her colleagues in the Local Government Association to put pressure on the government to recognise, protect and fund the essential role of local authorities in

- ensuring the provision of sufficient school places
- responding appropriately and sensitively to local circumstances and needs
- working with all maintained schools and academies to improve standards for all and particularly to raise the performance and aspirations of young people from the most deprived backgrounds.

[The Monitoring Officer 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 Ian Manning

This Council notes that:

- recent Government amendments to the pensions regulations will remove from local authorities the ability to make investment decisions on ethical grounds
- the Government has repeatedly stated a desire to devolve power away from central Government

Council believes that the recent pensions amendments are an unacceptable attack on local decision making, regardless of whether Council wishes to make decisions on ethical grounds or not.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

Direct the Chief Executive to write to Matthew Hancock MP, as the relevant minister, signalling this Council's objection to the moves as an unacceptable centralisation of power, and a backwards step in the devolution agenda.

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

(e) Motion from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

This council notes the announcement by the Chancellor of a devolution deal for the East in his budget on 16th March.

This council welcomes the commitment of the government for increased investment in infrastructure in the east of England.

This council resolves to:-

- i) Formally declare and record its opposition to the proposal for a Mayor for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk, with sweeping powers over planning and transport which would reduce the influence of local people on planning for their own areas.
- ii) Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Local Government to bring this resolution to his attention.

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

15. Questions:

(a) Questions on Fire Authority Issues

Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority. (pages 127-129)

(b) 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.

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

(oral)

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

Dated 14th March 2016



Quentin Baker
Director of LGSS Law,
Procurement 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 Cambridge (01223) 699180 or by email at: michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk