

# County Council – Minutes

Please note the meeting can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:  
[Cambridgeshire County Council Full Council Meeting, 19th October 2022](#)

Date: Tuesday 18 October 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Councillors present:

S Ferguson (Chair)  
S Kindersley (Vice-Chair)

D Ambrose Smith	R Fuller	E Meschini
A Beckett	I Gardener	B Milnes
G Bird	N Gay	E Murphy
C Boden	D Giles	L Nethsingha
A Bradnam	M Goldsack	K Prentice
A Bulat	B Goodliffe	C Rae
S Bywater	N Gough	K Reynolds
S Corney	J Gowing	T Sanderson
A Costello	R Hathorn	N Shailer
S Count	M Howell	A Sharp
P Coutts	R Howitt	P Slatter
H Cox Condron	S Hoy	S Taylor
S Criswell	J King	S Tierney
C Daunton	M King	S van de Ven
D Dew	S King	A Whelan
L Dupré	P McDonald	G Wilson
J French	M McGuire	

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Councillors M Atkins, H Batchelor, D Connor, A Hay and M Smith.

## 89. Minutes – 19 July 2022 and the Motions Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. One member raised the need for a more detailed minute in future when issues were raised in relation to the motions log.

While noting the motions log, members raised the following issues:

- Motion from Councillor Steve Tierney (20 July 2021): The immediate audit of roads, footpaths and cycle paths had not been published. It was requested that this be ready for the next meeting.
- Motion from Councillor Hoy (25 January 2022): Requested that the next published motions log lists localities in which mental health hubs had been opened.

- Motion from Councillor Hathorn (19 July 2022): Requested that the response received from the Department for Transport be circulated to all members. This should apply to every motion in the future.

## 90. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made a number of announcements, as set out in Appendix A.

## 91. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 92. Public Question Time

The Chair reported that no public questions had been received from members of the public.

## 93. Petitions

The Chair reported that no petitions had been received from members of the public.

## 94. Report of the Staffing and Appeals Committee – Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

It was moved by the Chair of the Staffing and Appeals Committee, Councillor Murphy, and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Staffing and Appeals Committee, Councillor Shailer, that the recommendation from the Staffing and Appeals Committee, as set out in the report on the Council agenda, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the appointment of the interim Monitoring Officer, pending the conclusion of the permanent recruitment process.

## 95. Proposed Changes to the Constitution

It was moved by the Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Kindersley, and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Bulat, that the recommendations, as set out in the report on the Council agenda, be approved.

Noting that it would not affect recommendation (v) in the report, the Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee proposed the following alteration to the wording for Section 10.04 of Article 10 (Joint Arrangements) of the Constitution, as set out in Section 6.5 of the report [additions in bold]:

## 10.04 Delegation to and from Other Local Authorities

1. The decision to delegate to another authority shall be reserved to the relevant policy and service committee of Council unless it is of such significance it should remain a decision of the Council. **This will be determined by the Service Director: Legal and Governance, in consultation with Group Leaders, with any dissent meaning that it should remain a decision of the Council.**

Following discussion, it was resolved unanimously to approve:

- (i) Amendments to the requirement to stand in the Council Procedure Rules;
- (ii) Amendments to petition and public question requirements;
- (iii) A delegation to declare casual vacancies;
- (iv) Removal of the requirement for members to sign attendance sheets;
- (v) The granting of authority for the delegation of functions to other local authorities to policy and service committees, where appropriate; and
- (vi) Amendments to delegations to appoint representatives to outside bodies.

### 96. Appointments to Outside Bodies Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, and resolved by a majority to:

Appoint Councillor Coutts as the substitute representative on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee.

*[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents in favour; 4 Conservatives against; 18 Conservatives abstained.]*

## 97. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10

### a) Motion from Councillor Philippa Slatter

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Slatter and seconded by Councillor Howell.

The Council notes that:

- Evidence from the International Transport Forum indicates that the risk of death is about 4-5 times higher in collisions between a car and a pedestrian at 30mph (50km/h) compared to 20mph (30km/h).
- There is good evidence that road casualties are reduced by introducing 20mph speed limits, with air quality and active travel also likely to be improved - although the evidence around air quality and active travel benefits is currently limited and therefore considered weak.
- Most new housing developments are designed to encourage travel by cycle and on foot, and with surface materials that indicate where spaces are shared between motor vehicles and other road users.
- The default speed limit on new residential roads adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council is currently 30mph, even in areas where 20mph zones are already in place.
- The default speed limit on new residential roads adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council is currently 30mph, even where new schools, playgrounds and health facilities have been built.
- Additional funding would be required to progress the Traffic Regulation Order signage, and any required traffic calming for such historic sites.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Highways and Transport Committee to:

- i) establish a policy of 20mph as the default speed limit on new residential roads as soon as possible as part of the planning process.
- ii) reduce the speed limit on roads in new residential roads recently or about to be adopted to 20mph unless local factors suggest otherwise.

Following discussion, on being put to the vote the motion was carried by a majority.

*[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, Labour, Independents and 18 Conservatives in favour; and 4 Conservatives against.]*

## 98. Questions

### (a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

Five questions were submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.1 of the Council's Constitution, as attached at Appendix B.

### (b) Questions on Fire Authority Issues

The Council noted the Annual Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

One question was submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.1 of the Council's Constitution, as attached at Appendix C.

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

Four questions were submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2 of the Council's Constitution, as attached at Appendix D.

Chair

13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## County Council – 18th October 2022

### Chair's Announcements

#### People

#### Her Majesty the Queen and His Majesty King Charles III

The Council was deeply saddened that Her Majesty the Queen passed away on 8 September. The Queen had ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, and was a constant presence, carrying out her duties with grace and dedication providing unfaltering public service until her passing. The Chair of the Council attended the official proclamation of the new Sovereign, King Charles III attended by the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and the Bishop of Ely at the Guildhall in Cambridge on 11 September where he laid flowers, on behalf of the Council, in tribute to the Queen. He also attended the Peterborough Proclamation on behalf of the Council.

#### Former County Councillor Ralph Butcher

It is with regret that the Chair reports the death of former County Councillor Ralph Butcher, who represented the Whittlesey South Division on behalf of the Conservative Party from 2005 to 2017.

The Council's thoughts are with his family, and friends at this very sad time.

#### Monitoring Officer

The Chair thanked Fiona McMillian, the Council's Monitoring Officer, who was leaving the Council at the end of November, for her service to Cambridgeshire County Council. Since 2018 as the Council's Director of Law and Governance in a post shared jointly with Peterborough City Council, she has steered the Council through the complexities of the legal issues which all members need to observe, in meetings and in the business of the Council. As an experienced lawyer, with a wealth of experience in local government, nothing could really have prepared her for the first year of the COVID pandemic, when emergency legislation which allowed – most unusually – decision making to take place entirely via remote meetings. She has provided crucial advice relating to issues of audit and constitutional change, and she took it in her stride and steered the Council through this process so that the business of this Council could continue to take place in a transparent and legal way. The Chair of the County Council has greatly valued her advice and joins with all members in wishing her well for the future.

#### Director of Business of Business Improvement and Development

The Chair said farewell and paid tribute to Amanda Askham, who for seven weeks at the beginning of this year, served as the Council's acting Chief Executive following the retirement of Gillian Beasley, before Stephen Moir took up his role. Amanda – who has most recently been our Director of Business of Business Improvement and Development, and prior to that Head of Transformation - has worked extremely closely with members from parties in this authority during her fifteen years at the County Council, along with a period of shared working with Peterborough City Council. For the past five years she has been a key member of the Council's senior team. The Council's thanks and good wishes go with her as she moves on to her next challenge.

## BBC's Young Musician Competition

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, congratulated percussionist Jordan Ashman on winning the BBC's Young Musician competition. The 18-year-old from Cambridgeshire took the prestigious title performing Jennifer Higdon's Percussion Concerto, requiring him to play drums, marimba, vibraphone and even a car's brake drum.

## Messages

### Marleigh Primary Academy – Time Capsule Ceremony

The Chair was honoured to be part of the Time Capsule Ceremony at the brand-new Marleigh Primary Academy at the beginning of the new academic year. The time capsules allow us to preserve a moment in time of the beginning of the school's existence.

### Service of Thanksgiving for HM The Queen – Ely Cathedral and Great St Mary's, Cambridge

The Chair attended the Services of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty The Queen at Ely Cathedral, and the Vice Chair, Councillor Kindersley attended the service at Great St Mary's, Cambridge. The services allowed many to pause to reflect on the life of The Queen.

### Queen's Award for Enterprise: Export Achievement in International Trade 2022 - Ziath Ltd

The Chair was pleased to be invited by Ziath Ltd to attend their Queen's Award for Enterprise ceremony. The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Julie Spence OBE QPM was in attendance to present their award.

### Queen's Award for Enterprise - Picotech

The Chair was pleased to be invited by Picotech to attend their Queen's Award for Enterprise ceremony. The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Julie Spence OBE QPM was in attendance to present their award.

### High Sheriff's Justice Service, Ely Cathedral

The Chair was honoured to be invited by The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Mrs Jennifer Crompton to the High Sheriff's Justice Service at Ely Cathedral. The Justice Service was attended by visiting judges, and others directly involved in the maintenance of law and order.

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Questions under Council Procedure Rule 9.1

### Questions to the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board – Councillor Nethsingha

#### Question from Councillor Count:

Thank you, Chair. My question is to Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of the Council, and revolves around the letter sent by Lord Callanan, Agenda 2.1, Appendix 3, which I've already circulated to her.

The Mayor of....- This is the reasons given by Lord Callanan for why the mayor had to send back £50.5m of government money that was supposed to be used to insulate homes. We've heard previous responses that there simply wasn't the work staff, the capacity here to deal with that and that's why it got sent back. But the letter actually doesn't say that. He points out that there were early extensions granted; business plan failures; complaints by local authorities; centralisation of decision making, which the mayor was warned about. In fact, you know, this letter is only second to the Ernst and Young letter about the fallibilities of the Combined Authority and how poorly it is being run.

So, my questions to County Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, is: Were you made aware of the repeated meetings with BEIS (the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) to get the matters on track; or, did the mayor keep these things close to his chest and not make you aware about the complaints? If you were aware, what did you do to try and get things back on track so that £53 million worth of government money was not handed back to them? Thank you, Chair.

#### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

Thank you. I was aware that repeated meetings were happening with BEIS over this project. I was also aware that a consultant was brought in to help bring this project back under control, and I believe that they have done a good job in that work. However, it was not possible to get the entire project back to where we would have liked it to be. Thank you.

#### Supplementary question from Councillor Count:

Thank you, Chair. I do have a supplementary.

If you were aware of all those facts and this entirely damning letter, why was the previous response to the Council: the money was handed back because there was no capacity in the industry to deliver these schemes? Thank you, Chair.

#### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

I think that that was the correct answer then and it remains the correct answer now, regardless of the other things that may have been included as part of the letter.

### Question from Councillor Boden:

Thank you, Chair. I hadn't intended to ask a question, but I have been quite surprised by the response from the Leader on this one. We are told on the Combined Authority that some figure between about £110 and £150 million is eventually going to have to be given back or not taken in the first place for warm homes initiatives which were meant to be administered by the CPCA, which is an appalling figure in total. And I don't see how it could possibly be said to be a good result that we end up in that position.

But the letter from Lord Callanan really does show that this has been a long time in the making and it isn't something which has just emerged recently. But what it particularly highlights is the fact that no explanation has yet been given, or no satisfactory explanation has yet been given, as to why the West Midlands - who have exactly the same deal that we had - how they were able to use and allocate all of the money that they were given by central government and we will end up having to give back somewhere between 70% and 80% of the money that had been allocated to us. That disparity between the West Midlands performance and our performance has never been satisfactorily explained. And I open it up to the Leader of Council to try to explain why it is that that has happened, and why we can say we had good performance in the Combined Authority?

### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

I think it would be foolish of me to try and make that explanation on a question that the councillor himself says he hadn't intended to ask at this meeting, and certainly not given me any prior warning of. I am happy to try and get an answer from the Combined Authority officers involved back to Councillor Boden, but given that Councillor Boden is himself a member of the Board, I would imagine that he could ask them for that himself.

### Supplementary question from Councillor Boden:

Thank you, Chair. I am delighted that the Leader will attempt for this Council – it's not just for me – but for this Council and the people of Cambridgeshire to get an answer to that question. But I refute that I have just asked this question. I have been asking this question now for the best part of four months, so it's hardly new that I'm asking this question; and no answer has been forthcoming other than one. That one is the sheer ineptitude that we've had within the Combined Authority. No alternative reasonable answer has been given as to our failure as opposed to the West Midlands success. But I wait to see the response that the Leader produces from the Combined Authority, but I would ask that that's circulated to all members of the Council, because I think that we all would all be interested.

### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

Very happy that that should be circulated.

### Question from Councillor Hoy:

Thank you. As Deputy Mayor and Leader of this Council hopefully you are well placed to deal with a project that's kind of some-County Council some-CPCA. So, the Wisbech Access Study was started by the County Council, but obviously it is entirely funded by the CPCA and requires more funding. And I think it's fair to say the project has stalled and it is particularly pertinent, given the last debate and everyone's concerns for road safety, when one of the schemes in that was for the new roundabout on Broad End Road. And for those of you who don't know, Broad End Road

junction onto the A47 - half of it is in Norfolk and some in Cambridgeshire - is a very, very, very dangerous junction where there have been a number of fatalities, particularly with young people as they often exit it and misjudge the oncoming cars, and we've had serious fatalities. And part of Wisbech Access was to put a roundabout there. We have been promised it for a number of years. So, can you please look into this and hopefully speed it along, if you excuse the pun, and make sure that we do have this delivered ASAP. Thank you.

#### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

Thank you, Councillor Hoy. I'm happy to ask for an update on the Wisbech Access Study. In that context, I am going to say here that the Combined Authority is facing enormous issues as a result of the level of inflation that we are facing in this country and that, therefore, their budget and their ability to deliver projects is much less than it was even a year ago, when inflation rates were running at 2% rather than 10%. So, the impact of national politics on our ability to deliver projects like the Wisbech Access Study is going to be quite significant. I'm very happy to come back, to ask for a report back from the Combined Authority on the Wisbech Access work and what the current state of that work is, but I do want to just raise here the impact that national politics has had on the Combined Authority's ability to deliver its budget- to deliver its projects. Just for the information of members, the Combined Authority's income is flat cash over thirty years and you will all understand that flat cash over thirty years, when you've got inflation running at 10%, is quite a significant cut year on year on year. Thank you.

#### Supplementary question from Councillor Hoy:

Thank you, but with respect this project has been going on before we started to have the trouble and this- there has been no movement on it at all. And, if we had actually got- the schemes been up and ready for a long time and purchased the land, and had we just got on and built the roundabout, we wouldn't be talking about these questions.

I would say that it's a case of priorities. Every time there is a project or a scheme that some members want, there always seems to be a magic money tree found. Whenever it's a scheme in the north of the county, suddenly there's no money and it is all the government's fault.

So, I would just ask that you please put that as a top priority. I understand that we're perhaps not going to get the money today, but we have been promised this for a number of years now and it's a very important issue, so I think it does need to be prioritised.

#### Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

I would just like to respond to say that there is no sense whatever, in the priority of the County Council or of the Combined Authority that projects in one part of the county are less prioritised than projects in another part of the county. And I think I would be speaking for most people on the Combined Authority when we say that there is a real understanding of the needs in the north of the county and a real determination to make sure that we are tackling the deprivation issues and the concerns of the north of the county. There does, however, need to be a recognition that, in projects like the Wisbech Access Study that cannot be delivered by one body alone, it depends on the contributions from other partners and, if those contributions from other partners don't come in, it will be difficult to deliver them.

## Question from Councillor J King:

Thank you, Chair.

Given the amount of chaos the Combined Authority seems to have been in since the election of the current Labour mayor, Nik Johnson - from investigations into his own conduct and the conduct of his staff, mass resignations, millions upon millions of pounds of unspent government money having to go back because they fail to deliver, the complete failure of delivery of services - can I ask does the Leader of the Council still fully support the Labour mayor, or is it time for him to resign? Thank you.

## Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

So, I have to say there's a certain amount of irony in being lectured on chaos from a Conservative at the moment. I really do take that as a slightly ill-timed question, from that point of view. I mean I'd quite like to return it to say 'how do the Conservatives feel about the current Prime Minister and do any of them think that she should resign?' However, I'm here to answer and not to ask questions.

I think that the Combined Authority is not in a good place. I don't think the Combined Authority has been in a very good place since the election of the previous mayor. I think many of the problems that the Combined Authority stem from the chaos and the poor governance that went on at the Combined Authority under the previous mayor.

I would accept, and I think he would probably accept, that Nik Johnson came in as somebody with comparatively little experience of running organisation and he hasn't managed to get it under control as quickly as he would like, but I do think that it's making really good progress now. I think that the new Chief Executive, Gordon Mitchell, is excellent and I have high hopes that the Combined Authority will be able to deliver some really good things in the coming year, having had to fix a mess left by the previous mayor and currently having to deal with the mess being created by the current government.

## Question from Councillor Tierney:

Thank you. I wasn't sure if you'd seen me, Chair, back here in the corner with the naughty ones.

So yes, I understand that it's quite normal for all political parties to blame the last guy. And, as each year goes on it becomes harder and harder to do that, of course. But, I heard a rumour this week and I'd just like some confirmation that the rumour isn't true. Because the rumour I heard is that the mayor, the current mayor of the Combined Authority - who it has just been acknowledged is perhaps on shaky status and the Authority isn't doing as well as we'd hope - might be about to be granted, or ask for, an eye watering rise. Surely that can't be possible? Surely, in the current state of affairs and in the current situation, that there isn't going to be a huge pay rise for the mayor? Can it just be confirmed that that rumour is wrong. Thank you.

## Response from Councillor Nethsingha:

I've got no knowledge of that, I'm afraid.

## (b) Questions on Fire Authority Issues

Question to the Council's Appointee on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority – Councillor Murphy

Question from Councillor Hoy:

Thank you. Obviously I am not familiar with everything the Fire Authority does, so I apologise if this has already been answered. But I had a member of the Fire Brigades Union contact me a few weeks ago regarding the reduction in the retained fire fighters having to go down to three crew members when they go out. And I just wondered if that was still happening, because they had some grave concerns that that is against national safety guidance - to reduce crewing - and obviously that was a proposal. And I just wondered, had that proposal gone ahead or had it stopped? Thank you.

Response from Councillor Murphy:

Thank you. I mean, there's a number of operational issues being considered, but I'm aware that none of them are in breach of safety rules because we run a really effective, and obviously completely lawful and safe service.

## Written Question under Council Procedure Rule 9.2

### 1. Question from Councillor Steve Count

The GCP has a consultation on congestion charging in Cambridge. Vehicle movements in the City could reduce by 50% and £80m revenue a year could be raised.

- 1(a) What discussions have you had or are you aware of, regarding the loss of parking revenue to Cambridge City Council being subsidised out of the revenue raised?
- 1(b) Why is the possibility of GCP subsidising Cambridge City Council not covered in the consultation papers?

### Response from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee

I personally am not aware of any discussion or intention for any of the potential income from any possible sustainable travel charge to be used to subsidise loss of parking revenue for Cambridge City Council. My understanding is that any revenue will be used first to subsidise reliable and efficient bus services, enabling greener, fairer and more sustainable travel across Cambridgeshire. If there is any additional funding available longer term it would go towards increased provision for active travel, (walking and cycling) across the County.

The legislation governing road user charging schemes sets out that any revenue can only be spent on directly or indirectly facilitating the achievement of local transport policies. This has been made clear in the consultation documents.

The GCP is working with the County Council and City Council on an Integrated Parking Strategy for Cambridge and agreed a vision and objectives for this work in June this year. Any impacts of the Sustainable Travel Zone on both County and City car parking revenue would be assessed following the consultation.

### 2. Question from Councilor Steve Count

The current Liberal Democrat administration at South Cambridgeshire District Council has announced that it will move to a four day week five day pay offer for many of its employees, due to a staffing shortage. This is for a pilot period and will not affect all employees. Cambridgeshire County Council also has many vacancies, especially in the Children's services and highways departments. Do you believe

- (a) This pilot is a good idea, yes or no?
- (b) Will you ask our chief executive to consider implementing a pilot at Cambridgeshire County Council?
- (c) Whether it can be damaging to staff moral to have a pilot where you tell one section of employees they have to work a four day week for five days pay, and tell another sector of employees they have to continue with their normal contracted hours.

## Response from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee

Recruitment and retention challenges are greater than ever for most organisations, and this is generating lots of different approaches from employers to try to compete in the employment market. Evidence of success or otherwise for organisations that have implemented the four-day week is very limited at this stage, and currently there are no local authorities operating that approach.

There are no current plans to consider implementing such a pilot in Cambridgeshire, but we will watch the progress at South Cambridgeshire with interest for the learning it will offer other local employers.

### 3. Question from Councillor Steve Count

In the July highways directorate update we were informed that in a structure of 27 positions, there were 12 vacancies, 7 interim appointments, 1 secondment and 2 positions were acting in addition to their substantive roles. In fact out of 27 positions only 5 positions were actually filled, with 2 of those expected to cover a second position. I therefore ask the following

1. What are you doing over and above normal procedures (because that has obviously failed) to recruit to this team?
2. When can we expect positive results?
3. How will you report progress to Council and thereby the public?

## Response from Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee

(1)

We have successfully completed the recruitment of the Highways and Transport management team, with the final appointment of the Assistant Director: Project Delivery on 11th July 2021. The new management team has been working closely with Human Resources to address the vacancies across Highways and Transport. A campaign-based approach to proactively recruit to vacant positions and those currently occupied by interim workers is planned to commence during November. The process began with a review of the existing posts and developing a strategy to address what is and will remain an exceptionally challenging employment market. The strategy is focused on reducing reliance on interim workers and moving towards a higher proportion of Council employed staff. In addition, as part of this approach, we are creating opportunities for up to 10 apprentices to support a 'grow our own' approach within Highways and Transport. This longer term investment in workforce development has been shown to significantly improve retention and progression within other Councils.

(2)

There have been a number of new appointments made recently and this is an on-going process which is expected to continue to deliver positive and sustainable improvements in the coming months.

(3)

A report is scheduled to be presented to the Highways and Transport Committee in March 2023, which will give an overview of the capacity and resources across the service and the steps being taken to both plan for and better meet demands in the future.

#### 4. Question from Councillor Steve Count

Whilst you are aware I am fully opposed to the introduction of a congestion charge in Cambridge, I still want it to be as fair as possible if you force this extra unfair Tax onto our residents. Therefore I ask, as leader of the County, can you give us your position on residents discount in Cambridge City for the congestion charge. London provides residents with a 90% discount under their scheme, however they have an excellent tube and bus system, to provide an alternative. Without a tube, the road space according to the GCP is needed to be freed up in order to run enhanced bus services. As 50% of journeys within Cambridge City start and stop within the charging zone, the plans would not work if a residents' discount was introduced, as City residents would simply be able to back fill the now semi-empty roads.

Can you therefore confirm your continued support for the policy of bringing in a charge with no discount for the vast majority of ordinary City residents? If not, can you explain why rural residents, many of which live inside the GCP area in South Cambridgeshire, should be paying the full charge?

#### Response from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee

The consultation proposes charging both residents of the Sustainable Travel Zone and residents of the wider area equally. Residents make up 53% of car journeys in the morning peak – in London, the figure for residents is only 3-4%. Treating both populations equally has been a key principle for the proposals. Additionally, the proposed improvements to bus services, cycling and walking will benefit the whole area and provide alternatives to car travel for both Cambridge residents and residents of the wider area.