

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 10.30a.m.

Lunch will be provided.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by the Reverend Dr John-David Yule, Incumbent of the United Benefice of Fen Drayton with Conington and Lolworth and Swavesey

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 14th October 2014 (previously circulated)
2. Announcements (oral)
3. Declarations of Interests (oral)
[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-decoint>]
4. Public Question Time (oral)
To receive and respond to questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.3.
5. Petitions (oral)
To receive petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.4.
6. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 – Recommendation to Extend Six Month Rule (white)
7. Item for Determination from General Purposes Committee

Treasury Management Quarter Two Report

To consider the following recommendations arising from the General Purposes Committee meeting on 4th November 2014 (minute 65 refers):

It was resolved to:

- i) Recommend the report to full Council; and
- ii) Recommend amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), detailed in section 2 to full Council for approval.

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the General Purposes Committee and 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/ccg-gpc-041114>

- 8. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendations to Full Council
 - a) Greater Cambridge City Deal Governance (green)
 - b) Hearings Sub-Committee's Sanction (white)
- 9. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Fiona Onasanya

Council notes:

- There have been a number of significant changes to the educational system in recent years, changes which have resulted in an increasingly diverse and autonomous school system.
- To maintain and develop the standards of early education, the Early Years Service provides support and challenge across the sector. This includes working with providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector such as nursery, primary schools and Children's Centres.
- The PVI sector accommodates approximately 80% of funded education places for three or four year olds. They are also the largest provider of free early education for the most vulnerable two year olds.
- Local Authorities retain a statutory duty under the 1996 Education Act to promote high standards so that children and young people achieve well and fulfil their potential: this statutory duty is fundamental.

- The importance of Play in children's development needs to be recognised.
- For many children today, nursery education provides their only opportunity for active, creative, play (including outdoor play) which is recognised by psychologists as vital for physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. However, two key qualifications currently being drawn up for nursery teachers and child carers no longer require training in how children learn through play. This is unacceptable, particularly in a sector serving the most vulnerable group in society, which has a right to properly trained, professional and highly competent workers, and where workers have a right to proper, professional training;

Further this Council recognises:

- The Too Much Too Soon campaign is seeking to see the introduction of developmentally appropriate and evidence-based policymaking for the early years.
- This must be backed by the recognition that nursery teachers and child carers must be of the highest standard, with proper, professional training which includes training in how children learn through play.

This Council believes:

- Early childhood must be recognised as a crucial stage in its own right not just as a preparation for school.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Children and Young People Committee investigate ways of ensuring that training in how children play is reinstated as a vital part of nursery teachers and child care workers' professional development.
- To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council expressing concern about the impact of the government's early years policies on the health and wellbeing of our youngest children and requesting other factors which enable a child to flourish to be explored.

[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 Paul Bullen

The council believes that:

- it already has a balanced budget for the financial year 2015/2016.
- it will be increasingly difficult to balance the budget for future years without a significant increase in either grant funding or a rise in Council Tax above 1.99%.
- it currently has a surplus of £2.5m which could be utilised to pay the interest on a prudential loan of circa £30m which could then be used to build rental housing which would provide a rental income of circa £2.6m per year for perpetuity. Furthermore, the investment would be an appreciating asset of this council for decades to come.
- 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 the potential to create new revenue streams which could raise additional funds to be used for the provision of council services to the people of Cambridgeshire.

The council notes that:

- the current surplus of £2.5m if spent on services would be a 'one-off' expenditure during the next financial year and the funds would never be available again. By utilising these funds to pay the interest on a prudential loan, a future income of circa £2.6m could be realised from financial year 2016/2017 and that this additional revenue stream would be available for perpetuity.
- it currently owns land that could be utilised for the building of additional housing.
- 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 revenue streams should be explored.

- a rise in council tax above 1.99% would require a local referendum which would be unlikely to achieve sufficient public support given the current financial climate.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to:

- investigate the service benefits, costs and possible income generation of utilising the current surplus of £2.5m to pay the interest on a prudential loan which would then be used to purchase and/or build additional rental housing for the people of Cambridgeshire;
- consider how best to establish a housing organisation wholly owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, or with a partner(s), where it would be located, how it would be staffed and which services it could undertake in order to provide an income stream for the future of Cambridgeshire County Council;
- provide an estimate of the costs and benefits for Cambridgeshire County Council arising from the creation of a housing organisation, financed in the way stated above, at the first available full council meeting following the conclusion of the investigation.

[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 Graham Wilson

The Council notes:

- the County Council is committed to its overarching vision: *“Creating communities where people want to live and work: now and in the future”*.
- Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county and local district councils are proposing large developments in their new emerging Local Plans which go to 2031 (Huntingdonshire’s is going to 2036).
- a number of transport improvements are committed or promised, notably the A14, but without further mitigation, the cumulative impact of the traffic generated from new developments will lead to increased congestion on the county’s roads.
- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is a consultee on the Local Plans and, although it has no powers to stop

development, it has the opportunity to explain the impacts of the development and propose ways to mitigate them to make the impacts acceptable.

- The National Planning Policy Framework states (para 32): *All developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. Plans and decisions should take account of whether:*
 - *the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure;*
 - *safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people; and*
 - *improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the significant impacts of the development. Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe.”*
- The third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) is a statutory document which sets out CCC’s transport objectives, policies and strategy for the county. LTP3 seeks to *address existing transport challenges as well as setting out the policies and strategies to ensure that planned large-scale development can take place in the county in a sustainable way”*. The report says: *While we must have a vision for the future, we must also be realistic and recognise that we do not have the resources to deliver all of the measures we would wish to over the lifetime of the Plan, particularly given the current economic climate.*
- CCC’s suite of transport strategies is based on extensive traffic analysis and environmental appraisal (including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the proposals. In a number of locations, officers have been able to show that the interventions proposed are beneficial and are unlikely to cause unacceptable environmental impacts and would support the proposed development. In a number of locations however, potentially adverse environmental impacts have been identified. The papers for the October and November 2014 Environment and Economy Committee included the sentence: *The SEA and HRA identify issues with a number of interventions in the LTTS that will need to be considered and addressed in detail when schemes are*

brought forward. It is possible that this work will lead in future to schemes being removed from the LTP, LTTS or from other strategies should it not be possible to avoid unacceptable impacts or provide suitable mitigation.

This implies some of the schemes being proposed may be removed when studied in more detail, potentially implying development may occur which has severe impacts.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- continue to encourage and support development that benefits the local community and economy
- continue to provide advice to the district councils developing their Local Plans on:
 - o the potential traffic and transport implications of proposed developments; and
 - o potential feasible, affordable and sustainable solutions to mitigate impacts with an assessment of the residual impacts
- object to proposals in draft Local Plans if CCC assessments indicate that potential interventions are not deliverable or the residual cumulative impacts of development will be severe
- advise district councils that they, or the promoter of sites being put forward for development, should submit their own traffic and transport assessment to the County Council for comment if county council officers are not confident potential solutions are deliverable (including considering potential funding limitations) and won't have severe environmental consequences.

[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 Susan van de Ven

This Council notes that:

- A. Cambridgeshire County Council describes Community Transport as 'providing journeys for people who have difficulty using conventional public transport.'
 - This includes a wide spectrum of people who are at risk of a) social isolation and b) lack of access to essential public services, including health services.

- Many clients require door-to-door service due to infirmity.
 - Community Transport is not a substitute for conventional passenger transport, but in some deprived isolated rural areas where public transport is poor or absent its role has expanded to provide a wider range of lifeline access.
 - Community Transport schemes vary but are by definition non-profit and in some cases they depend on volunteer input. Without council funding to support dial-a-ride schemes and mileage reimbursement for volunteer drivers through community car services, important schemes would not be viable.
- B. Efforts to quantify the financial cost of isolation of vulnerable people and to understand the potential impacts on public service budgets should Community Transport be longer viable, are underway:
- Fenland Association for Community Transport's paper 'Community Transport, Health and Social Care' (April 2014) provides a window on some of the financial savings to the NHS and Adult Social Care achieved through Community Transport in Cambridgeshire.
 - A Transport and Health JSNA is being produced by County Council officers for the Health and Wellbeing Board, to be published in April 2015.
- C. Different Council services are engaged in disparate exercises relating to future commissioning and funding of Community Transport.
- An Adult Social Care Transport Policy that defines, and effectively tightens, eligibility criteria for transport support is now in preparation, but without reference to any Community Transport cost benefit analysis.
 - Business Planning for Community Transport takes place under the umbrella of Cambridgeshire Future Transport, in the Economy, Transport and Environment Directorate, but without reference to any Community Transport cost benefit analysis.
- D. A lack of joined-up thinking, including information sharing across the Council and a common strategy for the future of Community Transport that rests upon a clear

understanding of its costs and benefits, puts vulnerable people at risk and brings inevitable consequent costs to the public purse, including in particular social care and health providers.

- Information about Community Transport options is not routinely known and considered in the course of commissioning transport for vulnerable people.
- The Cambridgeshire Future Transport Member Steering Group is theoretically in a position to promote a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach to the provision and funding of community transport, as its membership now cuts across council directorates, however it has not been deployed to do so and the Steering Group is dormant.

And, as a consequence, recognises:

- That a coordinated, multi-disciplinary strategic approach, involving expertise from Public Health, Adult Social Care, and Economy, Transport and Environment, as well as the NHS and Community Transport providers and user representatives, would provide the best possible future for Community Transport, in terms of contributing to the wellbeing of vulnerable people and helping to avert the financial consequences of isolation.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- To revive the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Member Steering Group for the purpose of actively promoting a coordinated, multi-disciplinary strategic approach to Community Transport, and
- To instruct the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Steering Group in its advisory role to draw upon the Community Transport cost benefit analysis method, as exemplified by the Fenland Association for Community Transport 'Community Transport, Health and Social Care' paper (April 2014), as well as the forthcoming Transport and Health JSNA, and any other relevant studies, with the overarching aim of helping to ensure that available Council funding is deployed in the most effective manner and that the council is best-equipped to make the case to Government and the NHS for joint funding arrangements if necessary.

[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:

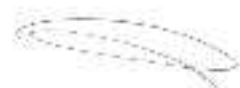
- the Leader of Council
- the Chairman/woman of any Committee
- representatives on the Fire Authority

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 5th December 2014



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/ccf-film-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/ccf-carpark>

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