

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 10.30a.m.

Lunch will be provided.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by the Venerable Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 13th October 2015 (previously circulated)
2. Announcements (oral)
3. Report of the County Returning Officer (oral)
To report that Councillor Richard Mandley was elected to fill the vacancy in the Chatteris Electoral Division in the by-election held on 15th October 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. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 – Recommendation to Extend Six Month Rule
 - (a) Councillor Steve van de Kerkhove (pages 9-10)
 - (b) Councillor Philip Read (pages 11-12)

8. Item for Determination from General Purposes Committee (oral)

Treasury Management Quarter Two Report

To consider the following recommendation arising from the General Purposes Committee meeting on 24th November 2015 (minute 172 refers):

It was resolved unanimously to:

Forward the report to full Council to note.

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/cccgpc-241115-TMQ2>

9. Audit and Accounts Committee Annual Report 2014/15 (pages 13-18)
10. Constitution and Ethics Committee Recommendations to full Council
- a) Cambridgeshire Local Pension Board – Terms of Reference and Standing Orders (pages 19-30)
- b) Rescission of Previous Resolutions (pages 31-36)
- c) Review of Appeals Against Dismissal Policy (pages 37-54)
11. Appointments to Outside Organisations (to be tabled)
12. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Noel Kavanagh

This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.

This Council notes with concern the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the Government and which would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole, particularly in regard to facility time and the arrangements for deducting trade union membership subscriptions

This Council believes facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our own specific needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services. Facility time should not be determined or controlled by Central Government in London.

This Council is happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and a cheap and easy to administer system that supports our staff. This system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the UK Government.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- to direct the Chief Executive (or delegated officer) to write to Government, on behalf of the Council, to confirm that it is content with the existing arrangements it has with trade unions and does not wish to see them changed.

[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

This Council is mindful of the fact that in the present financial circumstances it is required, as are other public bodies, to deliver the same level of service to its customers with considerably less resources.

However, the legal constraints surrounding the delivery of some of those services have not been relaxed (and nor should they be) as far as some of our most vulnerable residents are concerned. One of the most vulnerable of those service user groups are the children directly "looked after" by this Council, and so too are the fragile families who require intensive support from us along with the most vulnerable of adults.

The implications for these groups of the Council's lack of resources are compounded by the lack of resources possessed by the other body closely involved in determining the way in which their lives should unfold within a proper timescale, namely HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

Unlike local authorities, HMCTS is not democratically accountable to the public and some parts of its work, notably some of the operations of the Family Division, and of the Court of Protection (CoP), are not open to public scrutiny. Under the Presidency of Sir James Munby, some progress has been

made and more public law child cases, and CoP cases, are now reported as law on the www.bailii.org website and elsewhere, but these reports are neither easily accessible nor understandable by some of the families concerned.

The situation has been made worse by the limited availability of legal aid, though again Sir James has endeavoured to assist by demanding funding be made available to the most vulnerable of parents, from the local authority involved in the case as the provider of last resort. His point is that the timescales imposed by law on public law child cases have been imposed for a reason, and those timescales should not be exceeded purely because of the lack of resources of the public bodies involved.

Though laudable in intent, of course, this will impose yet further strain on local government.

This Council, as are all other local authorities, is doing its level best to secure the resources needed to fulfil its obligations to these vulnerable children, families and individuals. Though this is an area where a bad Social Services decision, particularly if that bad decision is financially driven, receives massive publicity, it nevertheless means some public scrutiny is in place.

This is not so in the case of HMCTS, whose budgetary constraints - staff redundancies, Court closures, plus the loss of legal aid - can have as great an impact on individual cases in that those constraints can lead to the delaying and possible denying of justice. Those who do protest against these things are not perceived by the public as acting altruistically but in their own interests, specifically the preservation of their levels of remuneration, and nor will they receive the positive mass media coverage a local authority may attract.

It is therefore proposed that this Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Justice expressing the Council's concerns:

- a. As to the disproportionate impact of HMCTS' cost cuts upon looked after children, insofar as they remain subject to the care regime and without certainty for considerably longer than is needful,
- b. To further open up the Family Court, and the Court of Protection, so that those subject to its/their jurisdiction may freely discuss matters pertaining thereto with their elected representatives and,
- c. That the Press and public may be admitted to its/their hearings subject only to such restrictions on reporting as may be necessary to protect children and other vulnerable persons.

[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 Jocelyne Scutt

This Council notes:

- Since 2011-2012, the County Council has been faced with severe reductions in funding from Central Government. Consequently each year the County Council has had no alternative but to reduce services throughout Cambridgeshire, resulting in decreasing provision of essential services to all residents.
- The impact of “savings” as provided for in each Business Plan for County Council Directorates since 2011-12 is:

All in £000s							
	Children	Adults	ETE	Public Health	LGSS	Corporate	Total
11/12	13,474	24,684	6,740	N/A	1,893	3,561	50,352
12/13	9,839	25,196	3,359	N/A	2,096	1,722	42,212
13/14	7,803	12,488	7,796	250	2,698	957	31,992
14/15	12,102	19,908	1,117	198	487	2,041	35,853
15/16	14,232	8,650	3,991	0	1,178	882	28,933
16/17	26,684		6,551	511	871	940	35,557
11/12 – 16/17 (a year)	175,060		29,554	959	9,223	10,103	224,899

- The provisional savings targets for 2016-17 are not yet final and may change because:
 - Savings may be reallocated to another Directorate.
 - The overall financial position may improve.
 - Savings may be met through increased income instead of service cuts.

This Council further notes:

- Any reallocation to another Directorate means that that Directorate will be obliged to reduce its services even further in circumstances where every relevant Committee and Directorate is at such severely reduced levels of provision that any further reductions may cut into statutorily mandated services.

- There is no real prospect of the overall financial position improving or of increased income due to the economic policies pursued by Central Government and major cuts in funding it is imposing on local authorities including this County Council.
- On current information the further cuts of £26.8 million proposed for this Council's Children's and Adults Services of £26.8 million in the 2016/17 budget will have additional consequences in later years so that their cumulative effect would amount to £73.3 million a year by 2020/21.

This Council:

- Regrets the continuing policy of the Conservative Government in imposing severe reductions in its essential funding of local authorities.
- Observes that this policy is responsible for the cuts the County Council is being forced to make in all its services, including
 - essential services for the whole of Cambridgeshire, particularly roads and highways (including lighting, pavements and cycleways) with consequent impacts on safety; and
 - social care for vulnerable adults, children and families – reduction and denial of which is unacceptable in a society which claims to be civilised.
- Confirms that successive reductions in the Central Government Revenue Support Grant to the County Council amount to nearly £50m a year from 2013 to 2016 and £86m a year by 2019 when the Revenue Support Grant will have disappeared altogether.
- Notes that the County Council's sustained and substantial efforts to make savings through increased efficiency cannot address the severity of cuts that are impacting on, and with each successive year will impact even more upon, the most vulnerable and needy people of Cambridgeshire to such an extent that they are both devastating and unconscionable.

This Council resolves to direct the Chief Executive (or delegated officer):

- To make strong representations to the Local Government Association to ensure that it takes up the matter directly with Central Government to halt and reverse the cuts that are making the County Council's obligations impossible to fulfil.

- To correspond directly with Central Government in relation to the Revenue Support Grant and in particular the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to make a case directly to them for Cambridgeshire, similarly focusing on halting and reversing the cuts, so as to fulfil the County Council's obligations as a local authority responsible for the wellbeing, safety and amenity of Cambridgeshire residents.
- To approach the Prime Minister's Office seeking an appointment with the Prime Minister to bring directly to his attention the wish of Cambridgeshire County Council to properly and adequately fulfil our obligations to Cambridgeshire residents and the impediment to this created by his Government's policies.

[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]

13. 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 4th December 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/ccc-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/ccc-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 Cambridge (01223) 699180 or by email at: michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk