

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday, 28th March 2017 at 1.30p.m.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by Mr Abdub-Kayum Arain, Muslim Associate Chaplain, Anglia Ruskin University, and Chair of the Cambridge Muslim Trust.

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 14th February 2017 (previously circulated)
2. Chairman's 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. Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 (pages 8-16)
7. LGPS Investment Pooling Inter-Authority Agreement (pages 17-33)
8. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Jocelynn Scutt

Many Cambridgeshire residents in paid employment or seeking paid work and who are parents of children under five wish to place their children in nursery care. Central government funding cuts render this more and more problematic. The latest policy announced by the Conservative government is increasing the problem.

Although promoted as positive for parents of young children, the proposed extension of free early years care and education to 30 hours per week is flawed. The so-called free provision solely applies to three to four-year-olds whose parents are in paid employment of 16 to 30 hours per week. This plan has major defects.

First, the serious government investment essential to support this programme is lacking.

Secondly, nurseries already experiencing difficulty in providing places for children entitled to nursery education and care will be pressured into denying those most in need because children of unemployed parents will be denied by a plan that favours those in paid work.

Thirdly, children of parents on zero hours contracts, will not qualify because zero hours contracts do not guarantee set hours per week, and particularly not the required 16 to 30 hours.

Fourthly, this policy will result in one in 10 nurseries closing (National Union of Teachers' estimate) because already they face funding changes generating cuts to services and job losses.

Fifthly, remaining nurseries will be forced into compromises – cutting staff, cutting staff wages, and denying professional development to remaining staff, meaning they will be unable to provide services to children at the levels parents wish and the community demands.

This Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Minister responsible for Nursery Schools funding policy to demand that the Minister:

1. ensures that the proposed policy is amended so that the extension of free provision of childcare is made available to children of parents in paid work and those who are seeking paid work.
2. ensures that proper and adequate funding is made available to implement this policy through its effective application by nursery schools.
3. ensures that proper and adequate funding is provided for nursery schools so that existing nurseries are able to serve the needs of children through the work of trained staff, with all staff being able to participate in professional development.

[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 National Audit Office (NAO) has been critical of the Government's capital spending plans, particularly in relation to its free schools programme. The Government is committed to creating 500 free schools by 2020. The NAO estimates that will mean the DfE facing an estimated capital building bill of £2.5 billion by 2022. While some of these schools will be needed to meet growth in the school age population in certain areas, others will not necessarily be fully aligned with local need. There are plans, according to the NAO, to open free schools in areas where there was no need for another school thus creating a surplus of school places. This will have serious consequences for all schools in the area, including the new free school, as funding for schools is determined primarily by pupil numbers. If schools face falling rolls, or fails to fill its places, due to a surplus of school places locally they will lose funding.

The NAO has also warned the Government that the physical state of existing schools was getting worse. Many schools are housed in buildings that need replacement or extensive maintenance. The Chair of the NAO (Meg Hillier) has said 'The DfE needs to spend at least £6.7 billion just to bring all school buildings up to a satisfactory standard'. She goes on to say that the money Government is choosing to spend on its free schools programme, some of which are not needed, could be used to 'fund much needed improvement in thousands of existing schools buildings.'

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

1. Strongly urge the DfE NOT to approve the opening of new free schools in areas where the subsequent increase in school places is not aligned with local need – thus creating surplus school places which will potentially damage the funding and viability of all schools in the area.
2. That in order to ensure that any new free school is aligned with local needs the opening of any new schools must be done in conjunction with the Local Authority to determine both the location and the sponsors of the new school.
3. That the £216 million set aside in the Budget is totally inadequate for the upkeep and maintenance of existing schools and the DfE put in place a more realistic capital investment programme to ensure that existing schools are fit for purpose.

[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

- a. that the revenue support funding of local government from central government has been significantly reduced over the last four years and will cease in the near future
- b. that this has profound implications for service delivery to residents
- c. that new patterns of expenditure on local services and activities are being introduced by the creation of the Combined Authority
- d. that joint working across traditional boundaries has been developed recently and is increasing
- e. but that all these changes have been super-imposed on the traditional democratic structure of parish/town councils, district councils and county councils

Council believes that it is therefore timely to ask officers to prepare information on options for the new Council to consider without any pre-commitment to a particular outcome.

Therefore:

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to explore alternative models of unitary governance across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a view to identifying savings and to improving efficiency, service delivery and outcomes for the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

In doing so, this Council resolves to consult with District Councils, Peterborough City Council and the Combined Authority to develop options which would include consideration of Parish arrangements and options for non-parished areas.

The Chief Executive will report back to Full Council within six months, providing a breakdown of the savings, efficiencies and implementation costs of each option for discussion.

[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 David Jenkins

Council notes:

- a) that our high streets with their shops, banks, libraries, pubs and cafes and other services are crucial to the economy of Cambridgeshire and play a vital role in the character and identity of our local communities and their resilience;
- b) that both the devolution deal for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and this Council's strategic priorities have a focus on economic growth and on developing the economy for the benefit of all;
- c) that Cambridgeshire's smaller towns and villages are an important part of this economic growth;
- d) that many of our local retail businesses are experiencing very real hardships in the current economic climate, and as a result of increases in rents and business rates taxes;
- e) that many factors affect business rates taxes and that most of these are outside the control of this Council; and
- f) that rents are set by landlords, are agreed by negotiation with tenants and reflect a balance between short and longer term aspirations, and are not subject to regulation.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- i) call on the Government to carefully consider the impact of business rate taxes and revaluation on shops, banks, libraries, pubs and cafes and other high street services in our smaller towns and villages;
- ii) work with our District Council partners to use powers of discretionary business rates tax relief to support the sustainability of our high streets;
- iii) include a focus on sustainable high streets as a part of our work on devolution and public sector reform;
- iv) work with our Local Enterprise Partnership and other partners to influence private, public and 3rd sector landlords so that they might better support retail businesses in smaller towns and villages;
- v) instruct Council committees to explicitly address the sustainability of high streets in their decision-making processes; and
- vi) ask the Chief Executive to work with councillors to develop an

action plan and to bring this to the new Council in May.

[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]

9. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Oral Questions (pages 34-37)

10. Questions:

(a) **Questions on Fire Authority Issues** (pages 38-42)

Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

(b) **Oral Questions** (Council Procedure Rule 9.1) (oral)

Members will be invited to ask questions of:

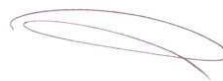
- the Leader of Council
- Group Leaders
- the Chairman/woman & Vice-Chairman/woman of any Committee
- Spokesmen/women
- Council representatives on Outside Bodies, Partnership Liaison and Advisory Groups and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

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 20th March 2017



Quentin Baker
Director of LGSS Law
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