

# Cambridgeshire County Council Notice of Meeting

The meeting of the County Council will be held in the Red Kite Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4YE on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 10.30a.m.

## Agenda

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 7th February 2023 and Motions Log (pages 8-17)  
[available at [County Council meeting 07/02/2023](#)]
2. Chair's Announcements (oral)
3. Report of the County Returning Officer (page 18)
4. Declarations of Interests (oral)  
[\[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available here\]](#)
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. Better Public Transport: (pages 19-46)  
Cambourne to Cambridge Project
8. Items for determination from Staffing and Appeals Committee (oral)
  - a) Senior Manager Pay Data and Pay Policy Statement 2023  
  
To consider the following recommendation arising from the Staffing and Appeals Committee on 23rd February 2023 (minute no.58 refers):  
  
recommend the Pay Policy Statement 2023 (Appendix 2) to Council on 21 March 2023 for approval.

b) Pay Gap Reporting

To consider the following recommendation arising from the Staffing and Appeals Committee on 23rd February 2023 (minute no.59 refers):

recommend the Pay Gap Report 2023 (Appendix 1) to Council on 21 March 2023 for approval.

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the Staffing and Appeals Committee and the minutes of the meeting are available via the following link: [Staffing and Appeals Committee meeting 23/02/2023](#)

9. Committees – Allocation of seats and substitutes to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules (pages 47-51)

- 9a) Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of committees (circulated separately)

10. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

- a) Motion from Councillor Lorna Dupré

Voter identification

This Council notes

- The passing of the Elections Act 2022 including a new requirement for electors to show photographic identification at polling stations in order to vote in person;
- The concerns expressed at the principle of this requirement, and the likelihood that it will prevent large numbers of people from participating in elections with young people and BAME communities being particularly likely to be disenfranchised as well as carers, recent care leavers, and those leading complex and challenging lives; and
- The view of the Local Government Association and the Association of Electoral Administrators is that there is insufficient time to implement this requirement without depriving many electors of their right to vote in the elections in May 2023, and that the timetable for implementation should have been put back.

This Council believes that

- All residents eligible to vote should be encouraged and enabled to do so, with as few barriers to participation as can be proven to be absolutely necessary;
- The new requirement is disproportionate given that according to the Electoral Commission the UK has low levels of proven electoral fraud, and given that there were only six cases of voter identity fraud at the 2021 elections; and

- Many local authorities will find it difficult to staff polling stations if the role of polling clerks becomes one of policing and preventing rather than welcoming and facilitating.

This Council recognises that it has a role to play in ensuring access to the democratic process for its citizens, and that it has assets including staff and buildings with which to do so.

This Council therefore resolves to

- ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to express concerns that this new requirement will prevent large numbers of people from participating in elections with young people and BAME communities being particularly likely to be disenfranchised;
- assist the District Councils to implement these measures to prevent electors from being disenfranchised including supporting their work in promoting how people can apply for voter ID if they do not have suitable ID already;
- share publicity materials about the new requirement for voter identification and the risk that electors may be disenfranchised;
- raise awareness of this through our community facing services such as our Libraries, Think Communities, Registration, Skills and our Adults and Children's Early Help teams so that users of council services, who may be particularly at risk of losing their right to vote, are made aware of the requirement to apply for identification papers in order to vote;
- work with partners including parish councils to increase awareness of the change in legislation and the new barriers to electoral participation; and
- make an offer to our District colleagues to support voter ID application facilitation by commissioning libraries, so that staff, volunteers and IT equipment can be made available to assist residents in successfully completing applications for voter identification certification.

[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 Steve Count

Core Purpose: To hold a local poll, under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 on whether Cambridgeshire residents want to pay a congestion charge to receive improvements in public transport, as outlined by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).

The Council notes that:

- the GCP have been working towards a proposal to improve public transport, largely in the GCP area, paid for by a congestion charge on drivers in an area described by the GCP as a Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ).

to progress towards a proposal the GCP undertook a consultation, which is finished and the results will be considered at its June meeting to decide whether to put forward a proposal for charging to Cambridgeshire County Council.

- the consultation, written by the GCP, concentrated on gaining its responses largely from the GCP area. That area also benefits the most from proposed improvements in public transport. However, the GCP cannot make the decision to charge, that decision is the sole responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Council:

- expects to receive a petition from Kieron Johnson to hold a referendum on the congestion charge. Legally, a local poll is the format this would take. There are currently 15,663 residents who have signed that petition.
- notes the wording in the petition is clear that most if not all believe a referendum would help stop a congestion charge. It is also clear that many believe the County Council should not make this decision based on the GCP consultation alone and would benefit from a clear referendum on the subject.
- acknowledges that for a local poll to be credible the question asked must be clear, unambiguous, and unbiased, to deliver a fair result.
- asks that any question should just require a yes or no response, balancing the benefits of improved public transport against the disbenefits of imposing a new tax on motorists.

Therefore, this council recommends:

- i. a local poll be conducted across Cambridgeshire on the subject of congestion charging in the STZ as outlined by the GCP;
- ii. that the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council commission a credible independent agency to draft a single yes/no question.
- iii. that a local poll be conducted on 4th May 2023 to align with various local elections taking place in order to help to keep costs down.
- iv. that a sum of £1.5m be allocated from reserves that have no specified spending in the Medium Term Financial Strategy to cover the costs of this local poll.

[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 Alex Bulat

The Council notes that:

- anyone, regardless of their background or political affiliation, should feel safe to become a councillor and express their views through the local democratic processes.

- debate and disagreement, as well as controversial topics, have always been a healthy part of our democracy. However, abuse, intimidation, threats and hate speech have no place in civil democratic debate.
- the role of a local councillor extends beyond council meetings and so the wellbeing of councillors needs to be considered when out in the community, on social media and in other discussion forums.

The Council welcomes:

- cross-party working to encourage respect and a good quality of debate on issues that matter to our residents, during council meetings as well as community-based events.
- supports good standards in public debate.
- its strong Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

The Council expresses concern that:

- according to the Local Government Association (LGA) 2022 Councillor census, 7 in 10 surveyed councillors reported experiencing abuse and intimidation last year.
- there have been reports of increased abuse towards people in politics, especially on social media.
- a number of councillors have received direct threats or intimidation because of the views they expressed in debates in this council or while carrying out council duties.

The Council Is recommended to commit to:

- i) endorsing the “Debate Not Hate” LGA awareness-raising campaign and sharing the toolkit with councillors, officers and relevant stakeholders ([Debate Not Hate - Campaign Toolkit](#)).
- ii) working with the Police to provide training for councillors on how to respond - or not respond - to abusive emails, social media and written communication related to council matters.
- iii) asking the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider a live action plan to mitigate the risks of intimidation and abusive behaviours towards members and officers, ensuring safety is prioritised while they fulfil council duties.

[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]

## 11. Questions

- (a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 9.1) (pages 52-54)

- (b) Questions on Fire Authority Issues (pages 55-59)

Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

- (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 13th March 2023

Linda Walker  
Interim 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 to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chair of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request: [Filming, recording and photos of meetings](#)

The Council does not guarantee the provision of car parking on the New Shire Hall site. Information on travel options is available at: [Travel to New Shire Hall](#)

This meeting is streamed to the Council's website: [Council meetings Live Web Stream - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

For more information about this meeting, please contact Michelle Rowe at the County Council's Democratic Services on Cambridge (01223) 699180 or by email at: [michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)