

County Council – 8th February 2022

Chair's Announcements

People

Resignation of the Chair of Council, Councillor Derek Giles

The Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council Derek Giles has regrettably resigned from the role due to ill health. Councillor Giles has expressed the great honour of serving as Chair and paid tribute to the support he had received from officers, councillors and the Vice Chair Sebastian Kindersley. He was elected Chair of the Council in May 2021.

Retirement of the Chief Executive, Gillian Beasley, OBE

Gillian Beasley, OBE, Cambridgeshire County Council's Chief Executive since 2015 retired from the Council at the end of December after an illustrious 38-year career in local government. Gillian delayed her original plan to retire last October because of the pandemic.

Gillian is a solicitor by profession and was appointed Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council in 2002 and became joint Chief Executive of both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council in 2015. During her career Gillian has advised government on Children's Law, migration impacts, government housing and cohesion and served on a number of bodies and Commissions linked to these issues. She also led on a complex Child Sexual Exploitation case in Peterborough, which helped inform and shape future local government practice.

Gillian received an OBE in the Queens New Year's Honours list in 2009 for services to local government. She holds an honorary doctorate from Anglia Ruskin and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Retirement of the Executive Director for People and Communities, Wendi Ogle-Welbourn

After a 35-year career in local government, Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Executive Director for People and Communities retired at the end of January 2022. Wendi began her career in Cambridgeshire in 1987 as a Residential Worker and went on to qualify as a Social Worker. After managing all the council's family support and adolescent care services, she left in 2004 to head up Children's Commissioning in Bedfordshire, before being appointed Director of Commissioning at Essex County Council. In 2012 she moved to Peterborough, and in 2017 took on the joint role across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as the Executive Director of People and Communities.

Acting Executive Director for People and Communities, Charlotte Black

Charlotte Black, currently Director of Adult Social Care, is acting Executive Director for People and Communities following the retirement of Wendi Ogle-Welbourn for at least 6 months from January 2022. Charlotte has worked in the NHS and managed children's services for seven years and adults' services for eight years. Her career started in public health when she was appointed as an Executive Director of a Health Authority, after which she was appointed into a joint role working across four PCTs and the Local Authority.

Retirement of Director of Children's Services, Lou Williams

Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services has taken the difficult decision to take early retirement and plans to leave in February 2022. After very careful thinking, he has come to the view that both authorities now need a Director of Children's Services who is able to give a three-or four-year commitment as the Council manages post covid pressures and financial challenges, as well as grasp new opportunities, such as the Children and Maternity Collaborative as part of the Integrated Care System. He is clear that this length of time is too long for him personally, and that a person is needed who is able to commit to that period of time and who has the energy required to meet these challenges and opportunities.